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Last issue

The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 26

April 8, 2002

Road Safety Week



Last week, Campus Police vigilantly monitored traffic on campus for Road Safety Week. For the first time ever, I made sure I was doing no more than 40 km/hr on campus. photo/Melissa Verge

Academic structure changes on the way for suburban campuses

BY TAMARA SULLIMAN

Proposals to change the structure of academic administration are in store for the near future at the U of T's satellite campuses, Erindale and Scarborough.

The increased enrolment growth and projected rapid population expansion has forced administration to look internally and see how it can amend the current structure of academic administration. They hope the new structure will help better prepare them for the campus growth.

Administration is proposing the addition of a new vice-principal position at the suburban campuses called 'Chief Academic Officer.' The Chief Academic Officer will report to the Dean of Arts and Science downtown and sit on a committee for Arts and Science across the three campuses. The

Principal will also be known as the Vice-Chancellor and will report to U of T President Robert Birgeneau with respect to campus management. He will act like the President of UTM, liaising the campus with outside parties and forging relationships with local authorities and partner institutions.

The Principal will also report to the Provost dealing with matters of academic appointments, programming and budgets. Currently, the Principal reports to the Provost on all matters.

Principal Robert McNutt believes the proposed Vice-Principal position will benefit UTM.

"With this proposed position, we will be able to work more efficiently in our capacities at the satellite campuses," he said.

When asked if the position of Chief Academic Officer could potentially

replace the three current positions of Dean of Humanities, Dean of Sciences and Dean of Social Sciences, McNutt said that the decision lies in the hands of the new UTM Principal, Ian Orchard.

"Because I am leaving at the end of May, it is not my decision to make. The new principal may or may not choose to retain the current structure. It could happen that the three positions of the deans be eliminated but that decision will be open to the new principal," he said.

The new Vice-Principal position could be filled during the next year.

"We would like to have this position filled for the new-year and I believe one of the first things the principal will do is conduct the search. I personally would search in the fall and have the position filled for the spring semester, just

Academic continued on page 2

Controversy surrounds ECSU elections

Downtown Student Affairs office investigates allegations

BY TAMARA SULLIMAN

The Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) has found itself surrounded by controversy yet again. The topic this week: ECSU elections. Downtown Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Jim Delaney is currently investigating the situation.

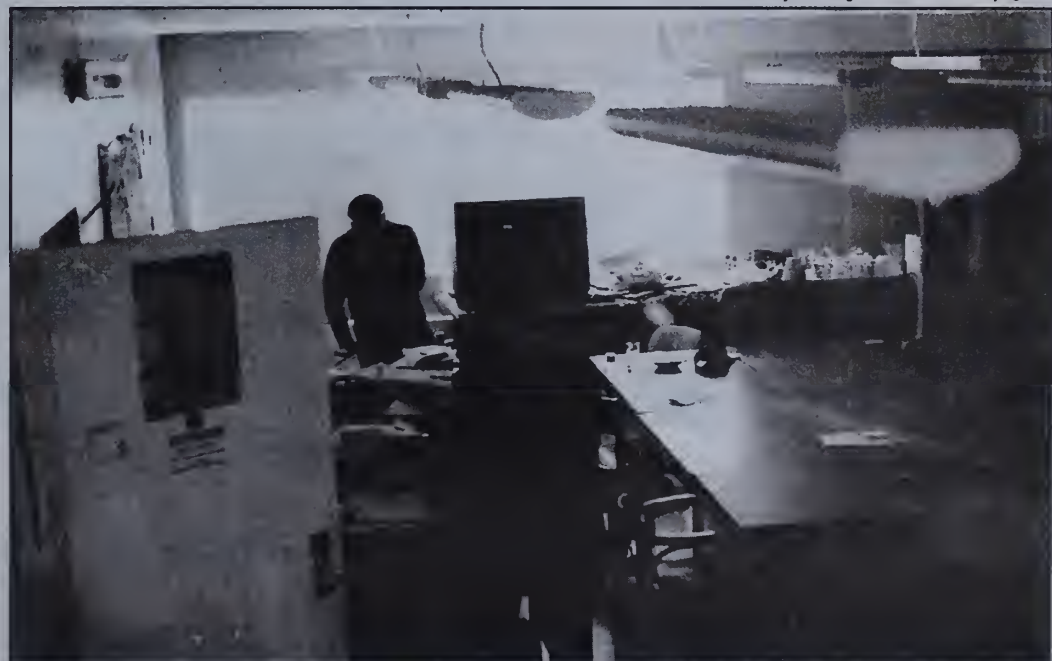
Last Thursday morning, the ECSU elections committee decided that Sirish Gajula, a candidate for Vice-President of Administration, had broken election rules. An e-mail containing campaign material for Gajula was circulated on Wednesday - three days after the campaigning period ended. The committee fined him \$30 and disqualified him from the race. However,

Gajula appealed, citing that the elections committee did not have quorum when it convened and made the decision. The committee reconvened, found the first decision invalid and fined Gajula \$60 and allowed him to remain in the election.

"We acknowledged that we did not have quorum that morning and that the meeting was invalid. We already apologized last week," said Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Aul Sayed.

The elections committee is made up of three ECSU members (President Erick McKinlay, Special Projects Director Paul Banwatt and College Affairs Commissioner Matt Sullivan), two student members (Ali Shahabuddin and Henna Shahid) as well as non-voting members Sayed and Deputy Returning Officer Zain Yusuf. Shahid, Shahabuddin and Sullivan were missing from the first meeting.

Delaney investigates continued on page 3



ECSU finds themselves amidst controversy again this week. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Jim Delaney is looking into ECSU's elections. Well, whatever the outcome of the investigation, the lucky ECSU directors of next year will get to work in this office and play video games TV all day. photo/Melissa Verge

Students awarded at UTM

BY JOHANNA KRISTOLAITIS

Many students at UTM are involved with campus clubs and organizations. Last Thursday, they

were honoured in a short ceremony. Student Affairs gave certificates of appreciation for their contribution to campus life.

"Thank you for making this campus feel like home for fellow students," Mark Overton said in his opening remarks.

Len Paris, Manager of Campus Police followed Overton's opening comments, by presenting the certificates for Walksafer students. After giving a summary of the organization's history, he named the students to receive certificates, and those who were present accepted. This process continued with Joseph Deogracias, who presented the awards for the Sexual Education Centre (SEC).

"I want to thank the UTM community for helping SEC grow," said Deogracias. "We plan to continue growing and serving the students here."

Overton returned to the podium to present certificates to volunteers

UTM awards continued on page 2

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If an organization failed to take my advice, I could hold back the student fees for that organization"

- Jim Delaney, page 3

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UTM awards club volunteers

continued from front

from The Medium, the Women's Centre and the Campus Response Team. He then turned it over to Matt Sullivan, who presented certificates to Vibe Radio and ECSU volunteers. Lastly, Sean O'Connell, ECSU's Clubs Commissioner this year, presented certificates to club members.

"Clubs are very important. If it weren't for clubs, I'd have no job," he said jokingly. "Seriously, clubs give students places to go and things to get involved with. They're important to this campus."

The awards were presented to clubs in alphabetical order, with O'Connell sharing a brief summary of the clubs' activities before listing the names.

This was the first year that club members were honoured in this way. Although the Volunteer Awards Ceremony has taken place for a few years now, previously they've honoured club members only. This year, ECSU and Sean O'Connell worked with Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs, Nancy Alison, who has organized the

Volunteer Awards in the past, to add club contributions to the mix. The response necessitated two ceremonies – the other one was held March 25 for students who volunteer off-campus and/or at on-campus, non-student organizations (such as the Academic Skills Centre).

"The event is growing and grow-

ing," said Alison. "It has always been successful, but this year the response was quite high."

Response may have been high from club organizers, but it was obvious that many students had not come out to the event itself. This

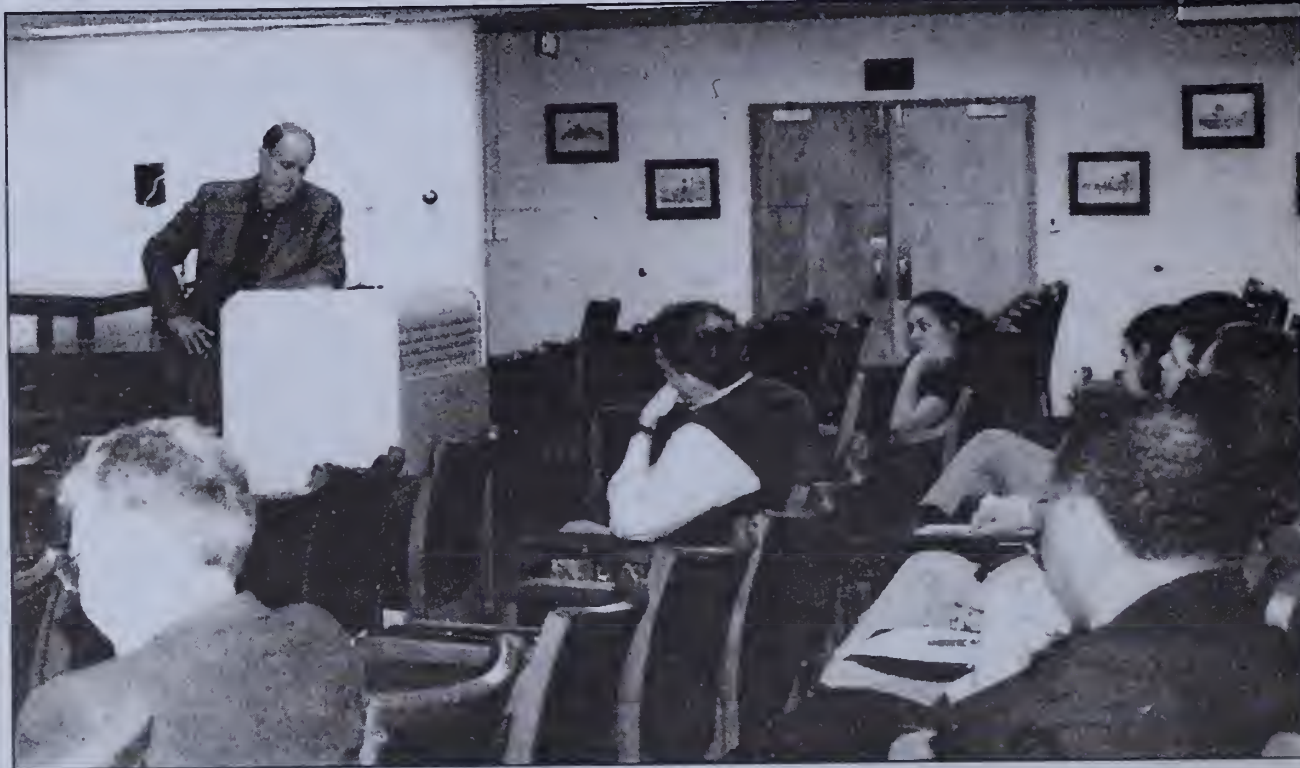
will be taken into consideration as Alison and her colleagues look to improve the Volunteer Awards for next year.

"We're always trying to make the event better," said Alison.

"We'd really like to see more students come out. If they've been involved during the year, they deserve to be recognized."

"Clubs are very important. If it weren't for clubs, I'd have no job,"
— Sean O'Connell

No quorum for ECC last week



Last Tuesday, the Erindale College Council (ECC) could not conduct business because they did not have quorum. ECC needs 30 members to show up and last week, Principal McNutt addressed less than 20. As a result, the proposals for the Professional Writing Major Program and the Communication Specialist Program could not be approved. Not one member of ECSU was present at the meeting. photo/Melissa Verge

Academic changes proposed at UTM

continued from front

because it is difficult to do the searches in the summer as people are not always available," said McNutt.

Proposal changes also include making the satellite academic departments distinct from downtown, with their own appointing authority and budgets. Currently, several departments at Scarborough and UTM report to the St. George departments.

McNutt cited the projected campus population expansion as the reason for the proposed structure changes.

"As we grow, each campus would have to run its own undergraduate program. Each discipline would work within its own campus instead of reporting to downtown because of the large number of students at the campus," he said.

McNutt believes that the proposed structure will make the campuses more independent academically from downtown but continue to maintain its ties to the St. George campus.

"There definitely needs to be more

autonomy within the campuses to be really efficient, and this proposed structure allows that. However, I see no advantage to separating completely from downtown. UTM and Scarborough students must be able to take courses at St. George and vice versa. If you lock that off, then you won't have a university as we would lose all of the advantages of attending U of T," said McNutt.

McNutt noted that faculty, not students, would be affected by the change.

"The old versus new structure does not affect a students' life. For the faculty, their appointment will not change. They will still maintain the relationship with St. George, but only at the graduate level. As we grow, there will be more graduate students at UTM, but faculty will still be able to teach the graduate students downtown. However, they will no longer teach the undergraduate courses at St. George," he said.

The smaller programs, such as the German Program, will become parts of

an umbrella program at UTM, instead of the corresponding downtown undergraduate program.

"We won't have single person programs, like German, anymore," said McNutt. "They will become part of cluster programs at UTM. However, they will retain their relationship with downtown at the graduate level."

President Birgeneau, Vice-President and Provost Adel Sedra, Vice-President (Policy development) and Associate Provost Carolyn Tuohy and Dean of Arts and Science Carl Amrhein will visit the Erindale College Council (ECC) on Friday to discuss the proposed academic structure changes with the UTM community.

"I support the new structure very strongly. It's a very welcome change and will work to the good of the university, especially the suburban campuses. A lot of anxiety is associated with change but we have to work through it. I wish I was principal in this new structure," said McNutt.

UTM Campus Police Reports

March 29, 2002 7:35 p.m. Service Call-in: Trouble alarm signal for the North Building boiler was received by University Police. Engineer was dispatched.

March 30, 2002 7:50 p.m. Suspicious Circumstances: Female student observed a person touch her vehicle in a parking lot (there was no damage to the vehicle). Upon being noticed, the person walked away from the scene. University police checked the campus and no one matching the description was found.

March 30, 2002 11:25 p.m. Suspicious male: UTM resident reported seeing a male loitering in a parking lot. The male tried a door handle of one vehicle and jumped on the hood of a second car. Area was checked by the University Police and all appeared in order. There

was no damage to the vehicles.

March 31, 2002 8:03 p.m. Concerned Parent/Missing Person: A parent reported to University Police that she had not heard from her son for some time. University Police spoke with his housemates. Shortly after, the parent informed that her son had contacted her.

March 31, 2002 10:14 p.m. Assault/Domestic: UTM resident reported to university Police that she observed a female being assaulted by a male in the parking lot. Upon police arrival, the male had left the scene. The injured female was transported by Peel Regional Police.

April 1, 2002 12:05 p.m. Transport to Hospital: Upon request from UTM Health Services, University Police transported an ill female student to the hospital.

April 2, 2002 1:00 p.m. Fail to

Remain/Vehicle Damage: UTM student reported to University Police that his vehicle got damaged (at the parking lot) by an unknown car. The Self Reporting Collision Report was forwarded to Peel Regional Police.

April 2, 2002 6:25 p.m. Personal Injury: During a basketball game, a player sustained a possible dislocated shoulder. University Police conveyed the victim to the hospital.

April 3, 2002 9:50 p.m. Suspicious Male: Upon hearing the lecture door open, two UTM staff members walked in and observed a lone male standing near the Audio Visual Room. After being noticed, the male quickly ran away through the fire exit door at the Kaneff Building. Area was checked by the University Police.

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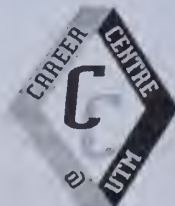
MONDAY, APR.15: Explore Your Career Options; Summer Job Search. TUESDAY, APR.16: Graduating Work Search; Resume and Cover Letter; E-Resumes; Now That I'm Graduating, What's Next? Resume Critiques. WEDNESDAY, APR.17: Effective Interviews; Resume Critiques. THURSDAY, APR.18: Now That I'm Graduating, What's Next? What Skills Do I Have to Offer an Employer?

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Delaney investigates ECSU

continued from front

Gajula said he was notified that he was back in the race at 11:20 p.m. - 20 minutes after the elections results were scheduled to be announced at the pub. Gajula believes that the time difference between the two decisions would have affected the outcome of the election results.

"Because they told me I was disqualified before noon that day and voting at the polling stations closed at 4:30 p.m., there was a significant time gap where I was no longer a candidate. Somehow word got around campus that I was disqualified and people who would have voted for me did not. Many people would vouch for that fact," said Gajula.

Sayed and Yusuf believe that only Gajula himself could have leaked the decision of disqualification to the public and argue that Gajula was notified of being reinstated into the elections at 4:00 p.m.

"If anyone leaked the information, it would have been Sirish," said Sayed.

"The only person outside of the elections committee we told of the decision was he," said Yusuf.

Once Gajula was notified of the disqualification, he contacted the Student Affairs office downtown and spoke to Delaney.

"It is unfair what happened to me because first of all, I did not circulate that e-mail. The e-mail was time-stamped on Sunday night when the campaigning period was still open. Secondly, the decision to disqualify was made in an elections committee meeting that did not have quorum. I spoke to Jim and he decided to look into the matter," he said.

Delaney said he was currently investigating the situation.

"I need to be very clear as to what happened so I can decide whether I should become involved and make recommenda-

tions to ECSU," he said.

Delaney said he could only recommend solutions to ECSU, but if they failed to comply, he could hold ECSU's student fees if he felt it was needed.

"If I find there was a lack of fairness or failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the elections, I could make certain recommendations to ECSU. That could range anywhere from asking for a recount, to holding a by-election for the one position or even to having a by-election for all of the ECSU positions. Of course, the recommendations are made depending on the extent of evidence that I find," said Delaney.

"My word is not law, they don't have to follow my advice. However, if an organization failed to take my advice, I could hold back the student fees for that organization for the upcoming year. Since the university collects the student fee, we have a responsibility to our students and we have to make sure that student councils comply with its procedures and uphold their policies. If I find the charges valid against ECSU, I would recommend remedial steps."

Delaney rarely becomes involved in student council controversy, but he believes elections are a different matter. He also said he has received a number of conflicting reports about the ECSU elections.

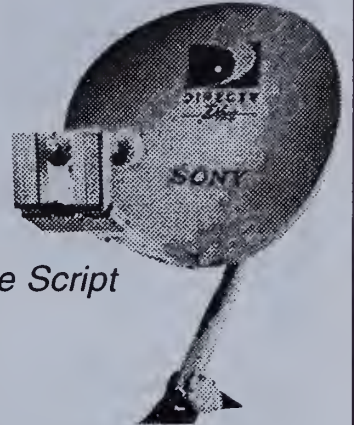
"We get a lot of complaints and most of the time we decline and let the organizations sort out their affairs. When it comes to elections however, it's very difficult to let that slide. It is essential the democratic principles for the student be upheld at U of T. I should note that this is the first time I've received complaints about ECSU. However, I have received a number of reports concerning the elections but the reports are not all the same. I will continue to investigate until I find out all the facts," said Delaney.

Sayed is upset that students did not approach him or Yusuf with any concerns that they had about the elections.

"If there were all these rampant rumours flying around, no one approached us. We were at the polling stations constantly and we are always [in the ECSU office] during our office hours," he said.

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Thank you

It took a lot of hard work and dedication to put together a news section this year and sometimes I felt I wouldn't make it. I want to thank every one of you, those of you who wrote for the section, those of you who provided information and quotes and those of you who I worked with, for making my job possible.

Thank you to all the writers who contributed to the news section this year. In no particular order, thanks to Johanna Kristolaitis, Tina Bankovic, Adrian Barek, Michelle Daley, Monica Verma, Stefano Macoretta, Owen Jarus, Karen Townsend, Adam Giles, Astrid Poci, Kate Campbell, Melissa Turner, Sylvia Nalli-Petta, Michelle Rabba, Ashley Ainsworth, Wendy Jermyn, Andrea Dalton, Stephen Persinov, Noel Semple, Anna Potasz, Mirjan Krstovic, Hasan Naqvi, Chris Allsop and Charles Helawa.

Thank you to the administration, faculty and student leaders who took the time from their hectic schedules to provide information and give quotes on UTM issues.

In no particular order, thanks to Erick McKinlay, Nicole Phillips, Jan-Michael Maw, Ian Hazlewood, Karen Lam, Tina Mann, Swan Cott, Tania Ramsay, Adil Mirza, Matt Sullivan, Danielle MacDonald, Sean O'Connell, Paul Banwait, Elizabeth Wong, Taban Nabi, Prinpal McNutt, Mark Overton, Paul Donoghue, Ken Dunccliffe, Len Paris, Cleo Boyd, Mary-Ann Mavrinac, Mike Lavelle, Pat Ash, Joan McCurdy-Myers, and anyone else who provided The Medium with information.

Thank you to my coworkers. You all helped me make it this year and you will be missed next year. Thank you for making my Medium experience extremely enjoyable.

Thanks to Adam Giles, Jenny Matotek, Astrid Poci, Melissa Verge, Jackie Shimoji, Trevor Wide, Richie Mehta, Cyrus Irani, Romano Bergic, Angela Dillon and Kai-Lii Veer.

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THIS WEEK

Thurs. Apr. 4 - The Frank Cosentino Band

Fri. Apr. 5 - Texas Blues

Sat. Apr. 6 - Pink Floyd Tribute

Another satisfied customer



Info booth employees tend to the needs of students during the open hours of the Student Centre. They answer general questions and sell Mississauga Transit and shuttle bus tickets. This dude looks like he has no complaints for ECSU! photo/Melissa Verge

Ontario Premier guarantees university placements for 'qualified' students

BY OWEN JARUS

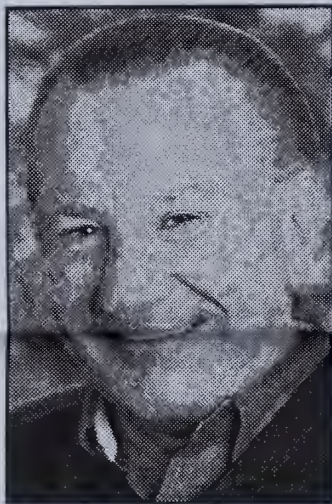
On March 23, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party elected Ernie Eves, a former Ontario finance minister as the leader of their party and hence the premier of Ontario.

In policy documents released by his campaign prior to his election Eves vowed that "every qualified student in Ontario will have a place in an Ontario University" but he made no commitment to increasing "base" level university funding (costs such as salaries, building maintenance and energy) to meet this promise.

U of T President Robert Birgeneau appealed for "helpful political action" to help deal with the university's rising costs. He hoped that the next premier would "understand the challenges facing post-secondary education in Ontario."

The university's rising costs have resulted in UTM's expansion plans being rolled back. Instead of expanding by 50 percent as the campus originally planned, UTM will only be able to expand by 30 percent.

In policy documents Eves also outlined his plan to deal with high universi-



That's our new Ontario Premier Ernie Eves, all smiles.

ty tuition and student debt. He promised to keep tuition increases for most undergraduate programs capped at two percent per year for the next two years. Beyond this time period he has made no promises as to what tuition levels will be if his

government is still in power. He also didn't make any commitment to move his government from a loan-based system to a "grants" based system where students would graduate with a minimum debt-load.

Eves noted that he would ensure adequate funding to "meet the needs of the double cohort." Three weeks ago U of T Vice President for governmental and institutional relations Sheldon Levy said he thought U of T would not be able to handle the double cohort crunch. Responding to a question on U of T's ability to absorb the double cohort, Levy said, "This depends on resources received (from the province) but with that said I'm fairly certain that we will be able to handle the full demand of the double cohort and to some extent (mark) cut-offs will rise."

U of T is currently facing a new round of budget cuts due to a combination of increasing costs and a freeze in funding from the provincial government. The cuts are expected to result in fewer and larger classes, a lower TA-to-student ratio and a reduction in the university's expansion plans.

Students asked to register in programs before the summer

BY TAMARA SULLIMAN

If you've completed 4.0 or more credits year at university, you had better get moving and enroll in a program, otherwise you will be blocked from registering for courses in the summer, fall and winter semesters.

"Registration will be blocked for students who are not enrolled in the appropriate number of programs."

If you are going for an Honours Bachelor of Arts (HBA), an Honours Bachelor of Science (HBSc) or a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom), you must be enrolled in at least one specialist or two majors or one major and two

minors before you can register," said Dean of Student Affairs and Acting Registrar, Mark Overton.

Students who are pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BSc) must be enrolled in one major in order to register.

"We are concerned students need to check this before they leave campus this spring because we don't have unpleasant because we don't want to have any unpleasant surprises in the summer. Anyone who tries to register for courses on ROSI will be blocked if they haven't tended to this detail," said Overton.

Contact Registrarial Services for further information.

Student Work

The Medium is hiring copy editors, a webmaster, and a distribution manager for the upcoming school year.

Copy Editors – Copy Editors edit all articles for grammar, spelling, style, and punctuation. Copy Editors must be available to work 5-10 hours per week, divided between Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Candidates must take a copy-editing test. Candidates must be English or Professional Writing students, or have related experience.

Distribution Manager – The distribution manager delivers The Medium to stands at UTM, St. George, Chapters Bookstore, and Mississauga's Public Library system. Candidates must deliver every Monday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., so candidates must have those times free every week all year. Candidates must have a car.

Webmaster – The webmaster writes and maintains The Medium's webpage on a weekly basis. Candidates must be detail oriented, skilled with layout and design, and have working knowledge of webpage design programmes.

All candidates for all positions must submit a resume and cover letter to Tammi Sulliman ASAP. Resume's can be mailed to 3359 Mississauga Rd. N., 2nd. floor, Student Centre, Mississauga, On. L5L 1C6, or fax to (905) 828-5402. Contact The Medium office at (905) 828-5260 for more details.

THE MEDIUM

Will You Be Eligible To Register For Your Fall/Winter Courses?

If you will have 4.0 or more credits completed or in progress by this summer, your fall/winter course registration will be blocked until you are in an appropriate combination of programs.

*If you are pursuing an HBA or HBSc or BCom, you must be formally enrolled in at least one specialist or two majors or one major + two minors before you can register.

*If you are pursuing a BA or BSc, you must be enrolled in at least one major before you can register.

*Check www.rosi.utoronto.ca today so that you aren't caught in a bind this summer – select 'Subject POST's to view/ confirm your programs

*Consult with Registrarial Services if you have questions.

Student business looks for employees

BY CHRISTOPHER ALLSOP

With summer fast approaching, many students busy with final exams are turning their attention to finding summer employment. With exams going into mid-May, it is problematic for those who need to concentrate on studying as opposed to hitting the pavement with résumés in hand.

UTM student Martin McAlear has a solution for those seeking summer employment. He started a student friendly maintenance company that is geared towards student labour.

Named "The Maintenance People," the company specializes in lawn care, house painting and window cleaning.

McAlear's term, "rolling commission," sets The Maintenance People apart from other companies.

"When a student sales representative lands a lawn care contract, that contract is good for the summer. The student gets a percentage of the sales," said McAlear. "What is great is that

the lawns will still be cut the next month and the month after that so [the student] would continue to get paid the commission."

"What makes the rolling commission so important for students is that lawns are still cut in September and often October. So as long as we're cutting that person's grass, the student gets the commission on it," he added.

"When a student sales representative lands a lawn care contract, that contract is good for the summer. The student gets a percentage of the sales"
– Martin McAlear

The company recently held a presentation in the Student Centre for interested students, and over the next week, plans to take résumés and job applications from students in the Student Centre. The work will

focus on the Mississauga area, with potential for expansion as the summer moves on.

McAlear said that The Maintenance People are currently looking for student workers in two fields. For those interested in sales and the potential of the rolling commission, the company is looking for sales representatives to start as soon as possible.

For those not as interested in the door-to-door selling required for the sales job, perhaps a job in the labour division is more appropriate.

Students are needed for the lawn care, painting and window cleaning jobs over the summer. McAlear said the wages would be "very competitive" to other similar summer student jobs.

If you are interested in contacting The Maintenance People for work, they can be reached at 1-888-267-2335 or via e-mail at 8882672335@easyteloffice.com. Résumés are being accepted immediately via e-mail, or by faxing to the same 1-888 number.

Our Principal... in a McNutt shell

BY ADAM GILES

"If I have the opportunity to try something I haven't done before, I'll go for it"

— Robert H. McNutt

Robert McNutt, the principal we have known for the past seven years here at the University of Toronto at Mississauga, will step down on June 30, clear his desk for incoming principal Ian Orchard and move on to the next opportunity he can find. McNutt will take a one-year administrative leave before he officially retires, but during that time, he says he will explore other careers and adjust to life after UTM.

"I remember talking to Rob Prichard about a week after he stepped down as president. He said, let's face it, it's like falling off a cliff — you're going straight ahead full-force and then all of a sudden you've got all this free time. That's the adjustment I face over the next few months," says McNutt, the former geology professor and Dean of Sciences at McMaster University.

"It's going to be a year of taking some time off to read. I'd like to travel. I'd like to play a little more golf than I've been able to play in the last seven years. I have a colleague at McMaster that I used to share a laboratory with. So I think I'll do some puttering in the lab — I have some research I've done in the past that I haven't published yet. So it's going to be a blend of research, staying in touch with the academic world and quite frankly, exploring what's out there. I'd like to start thinking about my next career because I don't want to retire, retire. I want to move on."

On the topic of possible future careers, McNutt says he would like to put his expertise as a university administrator and academic to work.

"I'm going to be investigating to see if I can use my experience to help in areas where organizations are trying to develop universities in other parts of the world. I think I'd enjoy that," he says.

"But I will miss the excitement of the job and interacting with the people here. I will miss being involved in the future evolution of this campus."

McNutt says the first challenge he faced when he arrived in 1995 was solidifying the campus' identity.

"I thought the campus had a lot of potential to develop and build its own character. I thought a lot of the things my predecessors did were very good but because of the growth that was coming, one of the things I wanted to do was emphasize that we're part of the University of Toronto," he says of his decision to change the campus name from Erindale College to the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM).

"It was not without controversy — some people didn't like it but most people agreed that it would be a positive change. The official name of the campus, however, is still Erindale College — the motion we passed said the name of the campus was 'Erindale College, also known as the University of Toronto at Mississauga.'"

Among his accomplishments, McNutt cites the many physical additions to the campus as ones that he's most satisfied with.

"I am proud of the Student Centre. I know there have been some growing pains but I think it still has terrific

potential down the road. Its location is ideal — in the middle of the campus," he says.

He mentions the opening of Phase Six Residence last year and the Communications, Culture and Information Technology (CCIT) building, for which construction will begin this summer, as major achievements.

"...it's like falling off a cliff — you're going straight ahead full-force and then all of a sudden you've got all this free time"

"I think one of the best times for me were those first few meetings I had with Sheldon Levy, who was then President of Sheridan College, when we first got the concept of the CCIT program off the ground because we could see that this program would have a major impact. But it was a lot of detailed work by others that made it a reality," he says.

"Getting the financing together to build the CCIT building was also significant. It's going to be a very modern, state-of-the-art academic building. It's will do a lot in terms of classroom quality on campus."

McNutt also highlights this year's approval of a levy for the new athletics centre.

"While I played a very minor role, I'm very proud of the students for passing it. Student leaders stick their neck out when they do something like that and I applaud them for it. I think they'll be remembered for it. Students take the credit for that, but I like to think that I helped the climate," he says.

Overall, as a result of his seven years here, McNutt says, "I like to think that the campus is a stronger place. Of course any principal is going to say that — historians will make the real decision."

He smiles, "I suppose some people may remember that a lot of building went on and that the place was a mess with construction most of the time — and we're going to see that again in a few weeks — but I think everyone believes it will lead to stronger and better UTM."

What will you miss most?
Principal McNutt?
"Editors

of the Medium and their editorials," he jokes. "I wouldn't single out anyone. It's staff, faculty and students on all levels over the years that I will remember. The people here are, quite frankly, a wonderful group. We've got a great community here on a small campus inside a major university and the bottom line is that it's the people that make the community."

He says the one thing he won't miss is suffering budget cuts.

"That's been tough. Just after I took this job, Mike Harris' Common Sense Revolution came in and it was very hard to adjust to that. You have to make painful budget decisions. I won't miss that," says McNutt.

McNutt feels the transition between himself and his successor Ian Orchard will be a smooth one.

"It has already started. I met with him on Monday and he'll be coming out to start spending some time with us. He'll be meeting with all the senior people here and I'm hoping he'll be able to meet with the student leaders," he says.

"I'd like to be back for the opening of the CCIT building. I want to come back and dribble a basketball in the new phys ed facility"

"The committee had two or three great candidates and I'm perfectly happy with their choice. The previous principals — Paul Fox, Desmond Morton — were very good so I had a lot to build on and I just like to feel that I helped build a foundation for my successors."

McNutt says Orchard's biggest challenge will be campus expansion and squeezing money out of the government to pay for it.

"In the last decade there has been a significant shift away from government support and that puts more on the backs of students — we have to continue to remind the government that we're a public university and if they want to have great universities, they've got to support them," says McNutt.

"But I think if the will is there amongst the people here, we'll get the job done. I do feel that the money will come from the government. It will happen. They will surely realize that our university graduates and the research we do here drive the economy. I'm really envious of Ian Orchard — he's going to be here during a very exciting time. I like the future of this place."

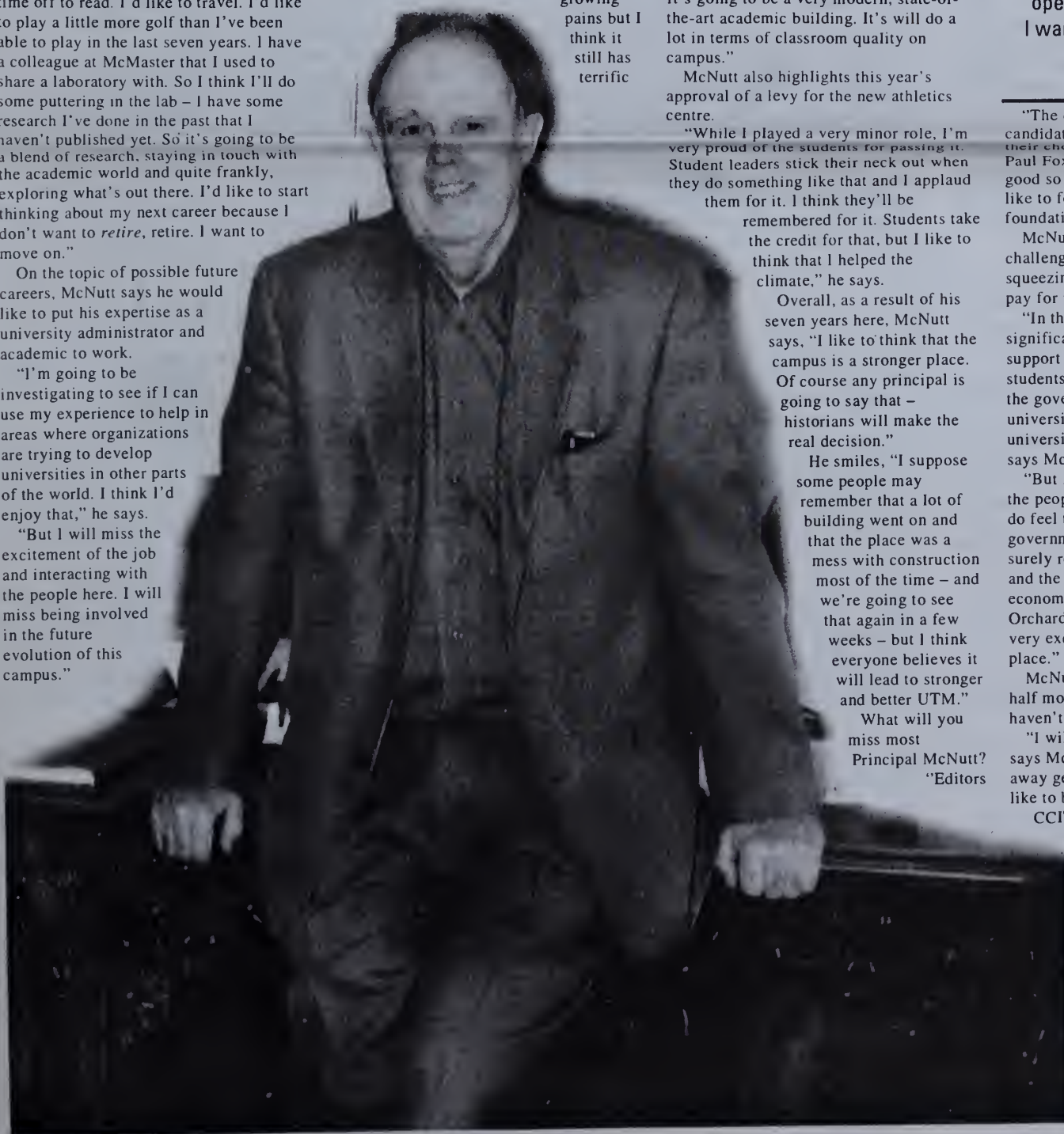
McNutt will depart in about two and a half months, but he assures that we haven't seen the last of him.

"I will keep in touch in my own ways," says McNutt, who will receive a going away get-together sometime in June. "I'd like to be back for the opening of the CCIT building. I want to come back and dribble a basketball in the new phys ed facility. I want to come back and see Phase Seven Residence open."

He jokes, "I'll need to get on the subscription list for The Medium so I can keep reading the paper."

But what about the question that's been on the minds of UTM students for the past seven years? What does the 'H' stand for in his middle name?

"Harold," he says. "It's my father's name."



FEATURES

Lava

BY EMILE FERLISI

I turn the ignition and turn on the headlights. Then I reach into the centre console, pull a cigarette out of my open pack and light it. My cigarette dangles at the right corner of my mouth as I turn on the radio.

"Brothers and sisters are you ready?" Gordie Johnson screams through my car speakers. I turn up the volume and take a long pull from my cigarette. I exhale out of my nose, the smoke rushes out of my open window as I reverse out of my driveway.

It's 10 o'clock on a Friday night in July of 2001. I drive down the 401 east towards Ricardo's house in Etobicoke. Big Sugar plays on my radio while my gold, 1995 Saturn hums along the highway at 140 kph. I zoom by cars on my right, colours and lights blur by as I pass.

Two cigarettes later I pull up Ricardo's driveway. I hear Ricardo and his father as they scream at each other before I knock on the side door of the bungalow.

"Hi Emile. Come in." Christine, Ricardo's mom, invites me inside of the kitchen where the side door leads.

"Sorry, they're fighting again. Marcel, Emile is here."

"He pisses me off Chris", Marcel, Ricardo's father, yells.

Chris lights a cigarette and shakes her head. Her dirty blonde hair rests in a ponytail and her blue eyes dance around the room to avoid mine.

Ricardo walks into the kitchen, his brown hair hangs just over his ears and parts, mostly, in the centre of his head. His green eyes scream, but his mouth smiles.

"What's up buddy?"

"Not much. The guys are probably already there."

"Okay, lets go then" Ricardo throws his faded blue jean jacket on. "Bye mom."

"You know you guys need to calm down," Christine ashes her cigarette in the steel kitchen sink.

"Ya' well fuck...he's always right eh. I'm always wrong"

"Shut up," Marcel, an older version of Ricardo, walks into the kitchen. "You talk to your mother like that. You got no fucking respect. Look at the fuckin' language you use. Emile, do you talk to your parents like that?"

I drop my head and stare at my brown dress shoes. "No, I don't," I mumble.

Ricardo stares at his father and grabs the collar of his jean jacket at each side, then he pulls the collar straight up.

"Ya' James fuckin' Dean. You're cool Ricardo" Marcel growls.

"Ya' I know I'm cool alright" Ricardo sneers back.

We step out of Ricardo's house and into my car.

"What the hell was that all about?" I light a cigarette.

"Ah fuck, I dropped my mom's cell phone, she started flipping. Then I told her to relax, but my father was sleeping on the couch and I woke him up. And then he started.. Ricarrdooo, fuckin' prick!" Ricardo imitates his father's growl. I laugh. Ricardo shakes his head, smiles and lights a cigarette.

We arrive at Lava lounge, at the corner of College and Bathurst in Toronto, at 11:00. Lava lounge is a small bar. The letters that spell out its name shine on the front wall they protrude from. We wait twenty minutes in a line up of about twenty people. Then we walk into the crowded, dim, smoke, and house music filled, air of the bar. One main bar sits in the centre of the bar; the dance floor lies in the far left corner. Tables stand along the left and right sides and leave a narrow walkway. Shoulders bump and drinks spill and shirts bum from cigarettes as Ricardo and I strut through the crowd and search for our friends. A lit cigarette hangs at the right corner of Ricardo's mouth as his eyes scan the bar for our friends. A lit cigarette hangs at the right corner of my mouth as my eyes, though more than half a foot lower, scan the bar for our friends.

Tarek, Frank and John lean on a wall that faces the dance floor when we find them. Tarek smiles and shakes Ricardo's hand, then he shake my hand. Frank and John follow Tarek's lead.

"Eh, you want a drink?" Ricardo shouts in my ear. I nod my head.

"What do you want?"

"Vodka seven," I shout.

Ricardo maneuvers his way through the crowd towards the bar. I stand beside Tarek. "This place is alright", I shout in his ear. Tarek nods, smiles and points his right hand towards the dance floor where two tall, blonde women dance. I smile and shake my hips from left to right while I wave my hands up and down for a few seconds. Then I lean against the wall beside Tarek and Frank.

Ricardo returns with two small glasses. Our vodka sevens.

"Thanks man," I shout as I take my drink from Ricardo's left hand. Ricardo winks at me.

John and Frank sip their beers and gesture with their hands to each other while they talk. Ricardo leans on the wall beside them, lights a cigarette and joins their conversation. Tarek smiles at me, lights a cigarette, turns towards the dance floor, struts onto it and dances beside the two women he pointed at earlier. John, Frank and Ricardo laugh and point Tarek out to me. I smile and shake my head as I light a cigarette. Then I



touch my glass with Ricardo's glass and John and Frank's bottles.

I lean on the wall, sip my drink, smoke my cigarette and watch Tarek dance with the two blonde women. They smile, Tarek wraps his arm around one of their waists and leans his head to her ear, and she smiles at what he whispers. I laugh and turn my head away from Tarek. John, Frank, and Ricardo lean on the wall, their eyes follow the women as they dance. Ricardo and John smoke their cigarettes between sips of their drinks.

A woman dances a few feet in front of me on the dance floor. Her black, straight, long hair bounces as she shakes her hips and pelvis. She turns and faces me. I stare and smile, she smiles back.

"Go for it man, she's checking you," John grabs my shoulder. "Nah, she doesn't," I take a long drag from my cigarette and push the smoke out of my nose as I exhale.

A young man carries a red rose to the woman in front of me. His white dress shirt hangs out of his pant waist where it was tucked in. The man smiles at the woman and hands her the rose. She smiles back and the man walks away. The woman holds the rose for a second, then she stares at me, smiles and drops the rose on to the dance floor. The rose collapses and crushes as she dances over, and tramples it. I take a long pull from my cigarette and shake my head.

The night wastes away as I lean on the wall, smoke and stare. Ricardo hands me another drink. I sip, and stare and stare and smoke and stare. At 2:00 AM the bar empties. Only a few people dance on the dance floor. Tarek smiles and looks at the napkin that the blonde woman wrote her phone number on, then he slips the napkin into his pocket.

"Okay, I'm outta' here," Tarek shakes my hand. John and Frank agree its time to go and shake my hand too.

"You're gonna' stay to try, aren't you?" Ricardo smiles.

"Yup," my eyes return to the woman in front of me.

I step towards the dance, then I freeze, reach into my pocket and pull out another cigarette. I drop my eyes to light my cigarette. When I look up the woman in front of me puts her hands out and pulls them back in, she smiles, and motions again for me to come onto the dance floor. I strut onto the dance floor and place my hand on her hip.

"What's your name?"

"Jules," she turns, her brown eyes stare straight into mine.

"I'm Emile," I dance though my legs quiver and my knees shake.

"Are you Italian or Portuguese?" Jules dances backwards into me and presses her rear against my pelvis.

"I'm Italian. How old are you?"

"I'm twenty-six, you?" Jules turns and faces me.

"I'm twenty-three" I lie and add a year to my age. Jules walks over to a table and picks up a drink. I look at the wall we all leaned on and see Ricardo as he stands alone and leans there. He smokes and his eyes run around the emptied bar.

"Hey," Jules grabs my hand and dances again.

"Yah, look, I'm driving my friend home and he's alone now because my other friends all left, so, I gotta' go."

"Okay, uh...why don't you call me. We could go out sometime. When two Italians get together its dangerous!" Jules smiles and winks.

"Sure," I laugh.

Jules walks over to the bar and returns with a napkin she wrote her phone number on.

"Here," Jules hands me the napkin and I push it into my left pocket. "Call me okay. And if you get my machine, leave a message. It was really nice meeting you," Jules kisses me on the cheek.

"Nice to meet you too," I smile and walk over to Ricardo.

As we drive back to Ricardo's, U2's "So Cruel" pours through my car's speakers.

"You got her number eh, fuckin' prick" Ricardo smiles.

"Yah, I think she was drunk."

The Break

BY JENNIFER LEE

"Damn it's cold," I say as I tuck my scarf under my neck and turn the key. The engine roars then putters as I switch on the headlights. Sheryl puts on her seatbelt and stares straight ahead. I turn onto Erin Mills Parkway and stop at Millcreek road. We wait for the light to turn green. My breath hits the windshield. I switch on the heater.

"Is this better?" Sheryl shrugs and stares out the window.

"Sheryl, I need to know what is bothering you. Please tell me. I know you are mad and hurt but I would feel better about it if you tell me instead of leaving me guessing all the time."

Sheryl tugs at her green mittens. The thumb end is chewed off and strands of blue yarn scatter out the end of the hole.

"It's just..." I make a left onto Burnhamthorpe Road. "I..." Sheryl purses her lips. "All I can say is action speaks louder than words."

"What do you mean?" I ask.

"I feel like I've been betrayed by you and by Dan."

"But..."

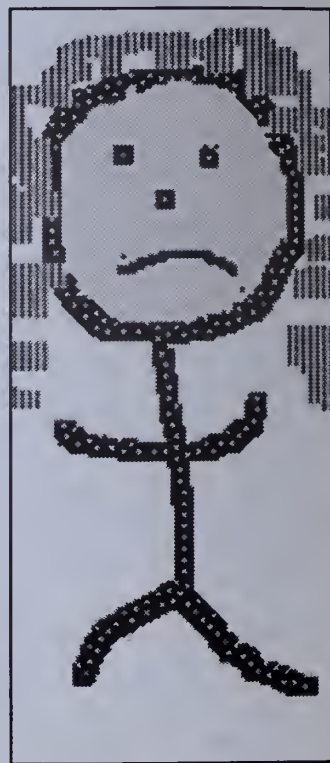
"Let me finish," Sheryl raises her left hand. "How would you like it if you really liked a guy but he chooses your best friend instead and she ends up going out with him." Sheryl's voice shakes.

"But you kept telling me to go for Dan," I say. Sheryl closes her eyes.

"I was just saying that."

"He said the two of you had a fling and there was nothing more. No emotions involved."

"Yeah, well it sure didn't seem that way."



"I had no idea you and Dan were involved before he asked me out," I say. "You guys all kept it a secret from me." Sheryl looks down at her mittens and play with the stray pieces of yarn. I pull into her driveway.

"Can we ever be friends again?" I ask. Sheryl shakes her head. She opens the door.

"Thanks for the ride," she whispers. The door slams. A gush of cold air hits my face.

I swing into my driveway and pull on the emergency brake. It's ten o'clock. I'm going to call Dan. I'm going to tell him I don't want to see him anymore.

Tea Garden

BY VAIA BARKAS

Our first night in Istanbul we strolled through streets lined with low wooden tables and woven stools. Loud music twanged and trilled and laughter spilled from open doors out into the night. At a tea garden between Ayia Sofia and the Blue Mosque, we sat at a table draped with a bright fringed cloth and ordered apple tea. Our waiter slipped up the aisle from between tables and from his cupped hands dropped a small grey rabbit onto our cloth. The rabbit froze as its round body tensed with trembling breaths. Across the street, gulls circled minarets, their wings and the smooth whites of their underbellies lit against the night from the lights below as they sailed like silent

scraps above the mosque, then dipped behind the dome, trailing long-lingering tails like shooting stars.

The rabbit flopped across our table and dragged one lame leg. I slipped my hand beneath its warm belly that heaved with quick breaths and the rapid pulse of its heart against my fingers. Our waiter glided back over the woven runner and with a slight bow, laid a small silver platter on our table.

"Please," he said. "For you."

We stared at the platter, lifted the lid and the crouched throbbing ball of a second small rabbit scampered onto our table to join the first. As our waiter slipped away in folds and flutters of fabric, we stared at our two rabbits. In the cool bright night, we sipped our tea.



First-Day-of-School Breakfast

BY DINA ELHAMAHMY

Boom!

I rub my eyes as I open them, and lift my head up.

"Aden, what are you doing?"

My 3-year-old nephew grins. As I lie in his bed, he stands next to the open box of Lego that scatter around him.

"Hi, Aunt Dina. I'm puaying with my Lego's."

I lift my body out of bed and help Aden pick up the Lego pieces. Aden sprints down the stairs and I stagger behind him.

I stammer into the family room and see my niece Spence watch the Little Mermaid on television. My sister-in-law, Cheryl stands behind the kitchen counter and grins.

"Good morning, Dina. Did you sleep well?"

I rub my eyes. "Sort of."

"Well you have to get dressed soon if you're coming with me to the first-day-of-school breakfast."

"What? I'm going too?"

"Well I assumed you would since Spence would like you to be there." Cheryl widens her eyes and crosses her arms in front of her large, pregnant belly.

Spence sits tranced to the television.

"But you don't have to come if you don't want to." Cheryl places her hands on her hips.

"No, I'll come. When do we have to go?"

"In twenty minutes."

I run my fingers through my hair and sigh. "I'll go and change now. C'mon Spence, it's your first day of school. You can't go dressed like that," says Cheryl.

"But I wanna watch the rest of the movie!"

"Do you want to go to school or not?"

"Mama!"

"C'mon Spence," I say. If you get dressed now, I'll brush your hair for you."

Spence smiles. I'm the only one who doesn't make her cry while combing her ringlets.

I stagger back upstairs and into the washroom. I wash my face, brush my teeth, and change my clothes. I open the bathroom door and standing in front of me is Spence.

Spence giggles.

Spence stands in front of the mirror while I spray leave-in conditioner over her tangled, dark-brown ringlets. I comb Spence's hair gently from the ends and approach the roots.

My brother Hesham passes by the washroom.

"Good morning, Princess!"

"Good morning, Daddy!"

"Are you getting ready to ride the school bus today?"

"Uh huh!"

"Hesham, are you going to that breakfast thing?"

"Are you kidding me? And get overtaken by all the moms? I'm gonna hang out here until Spence gets on the bus, then I'm going to

work. I guess Cheryl talked you into going?"

"Yeah."

Hesham laughs and points his index finger at me. "Have fun."

"Spence! It's time to go!" Cheryl says.

Spence and I walk downstairs. I put Aden's shoes on and grab Spence's Barbie knapsack. Spence strolls into the kitchen.

"Spence, put your shoes on."

"I don't want to go yet."

"Dina! Put your shoes on now!" Cheryl and I stare at Hesham.

"What?"

"You just told Dina to put her shoes on."

"No I didn't!"

Cheryl rolls her eyes.

Spence skips on the sidewalk with her Barbie knapsack on her back and name tagged on the front of her shirt. Cheryl waddles towards the other mothers walking to the breakfast. I stroll behind Cheryl holding Aden's hand.

As Aden and I walk up the driveway, he releases my grip and runs to his friend Matthew. I stand with my arms crossed and gaze at fifteen children play and the ten mothers chat. I walk over to the refreshment table that stands on the driveway. The table covers with a red and white plaid vinyl tablecloth. A large thermos filled with coffee, Junior Juice box drinks, and Styrofoam cups sit on the table. I groan.

I recognise one of Hesham's neighbours Michelle, and I walk over. Michelle speaks with a blonde, middle-aged woman.

"Hi Michelle."

"Oh hi Dina! Cathy, this is Dina, Hesham's sister from Canada! She's here visiting for the week."

I smile at Cathy.

"Nice to meet you, Dina! Aren't you all excited that today's Spence's first day of school? Kids grow up so fast! My little Kyle starts grade one this year. I don't know where the time goes!"

"I know what you mean!" I nod my head and grin. My head pounds from my strained grin.

"Cathy! Come look at Barb's new porch lamp!"

Michelle and Cathy scurry over to the porch and I stand with my arms crossed. I notice a 5' 2" woman smile at me.

"Hi," I say.

"Hello. I saw you come with your two children. They're very beautiful!"

"No, no, no. I'm their aunt. Their mother is standing over there." I point to Cheryl. Cheryl speaks with Cathy as Cathy points at the porch lamp.

"Oh. So you came to see your niece leave for school."

"Yeah, she starts kindergarten today."

"How exciting! So do you live around here?"

"No, I'm visiting from Canada?"

"Where in Canada?"

I smile. She's the first person to ask me this question. "Toronto."

The woman, who I later find out is named Gloria, chat for fifteen minutes about how we watch tennis and how we cram for University finals, and how we experiment different styles with our hair.

I notice Aden run across the street. "Excuse me." I run over to Aden and pull him back to the driveway. Aden squirms from my grip.

"Aunt Dina! What are you doin'?"

"Aden, stay off the road."

"But I don't want to!"

Four other children run onto the street.

I scan for Cheryl. Cheryl disappears from my sight. All but two mothers disappear from my sight. I sigh.

"Excuse me!" I wave my arms in the air. "Can everyone stay off the road!"

All the children stare a blank stare.

"Gloria screams, "everyone get off the road now!"

The four children step off the road. I smile at Gloria. "Thanks."

The other eight mothers peak out from the backyard gate. As they walk towards the front of the house, the gossip and talk, gossip and talk.

Everyone walks towards the bus stop on the corner except for Gloria who caters to the scrape on her daughter's knee. The toddlers skip in front of the mothers, and the mothers' gossip and talk. I walk behind them holding Aden's hand. I sigh.



On graduation

BY TRANG LE

What can I say?
The Days have gone away.
The clouds have flown that way.
Oh, those lazy days when the clouds won't go away
As I stay.
But now I, too, must go away.
Yet, what can I say as I sail that way.

The Days, the Ways, you say, will return
Someday.
The Days, the Ways, I say, won't stay and will not return
Someday,
As I, too, won't stay and shant return this way.
But... what can I say?

Don't say we will stay in the middle of the way on that day
In May.
For you and I, we must fly through all those days, by some bay
Finding The Way
Someday, someday.
And that is all I will say.

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Thank you to all those who
contributed to the Medium's features
section.

Your submissions are greatly
appreciated.

Blacks.com

BY SULTAN AMEERALI

The phone rang. I pulled off my glasses, rubbed my eyes and rolled across the floor in my chair. I snatched the phone off the wall in mid-ring.

"Black's Agincourt. Photo Lab." "Good afternoon," a stern, crotchety voice on the end of the line said. "I have a complaint and I want to speak to the manager."

"The manager won't be in until Monday. If you leave a -" the asexual voice cut me off.

"Can you give me his home number?"

"No."

"Young man, my name is Cindy Doan - wife of Pastor Nick Doan of the Knox church from down the street. I have a complaint and I need to speak to the manager right away."

At least now I knew for sure that she was a woman.

"Lady I'm as close to the man-

ager as you're going to get 'til Monday."

"And what is your name?"

"Uh ... my name. Mark."

"What did you say?" Mark shot back from the front of the store. I covered the receiver with my hand. "Man I'm on the phone."

"Sorry about that. Now ma'am, I'm not trying to be rude but I'm not going to give you anyone's home number." I said.

"Well then I guess you can help me. What is your policy on ... blue material?" It took me a while to figure what blue meant.

"As long as there is no touching it's considered art." I recited the words as they appeared on the Black's policy manual, exactly as I recited them at least once a week to horny teenagers since I took the job about a year ago.

"Well that's very interesting. I went to your website Blacks.com to cash in my Memories Plus points and all I found was pornog-

raphy. I think you are all disgusting. You bastards! Not only is it offensive, it's racist. And by the way there was plenty of touching!"

"What are you talking about?"

"Don't pretend like you don't know Mark. Mr. 'it's art if there is no touching.' You think you're better than them because you only print the pictures. You're no better than a pimp, you're a facilitator. Making those pictures available on the internet where anybody can see them," she took a deep breath and composed herself, her tone was even but firm when she started talking again. "Now I'm not against pornography in controlled areas but ambushing unsuspecting people who are trying to cash in their Memories points. Do you find that funny?" There was a pause and I could hear her heavy breaths. I stopped laughing. "Are you still there?" she asked.

"Lady our website is Blackphoto.com, not Blacks.com. You've

apparently stumbled onto some sort of Black porno web site." The other end of the line was silent except for the clack of keys.

"This doesn't change anything. If your name is Blacks, then obviously you're responsible for whatever appears on Blacks.com."

"The commercial says Black's is photography, not Black's is pornography!" She started to talk again. "I don't want to hear it! This whole conversation is stupid! You're stupid! If you ever call here again I swear to god I'll come over there and shove a crucifix up your ass," I yelled before slamming the receiver down.

Mark walked into the back. "You look pissed. What was that about?"

"What's the address of the web site?" I asked.

"I don't know, Blacks.com I guess, why?"

"Forget it."



Hawk

BY LAUREN GRIMALDI

fresh beating wing,
glides fast above my face.
flicks brown and cream,
smear, blend, and vanish.

he scavanged over the ground
for the feather,
and he wears it lightly.
his hair crowned with brown light.

fierce he pounces
quick, with the feather.
striking like a hawk
devouring me whole.

this dream, this promise
fresh, hot, and blowing
infects me most delicious.

U of T Bookstore S • E • R • I • E • S

Monday April 8th, 7:30 pm • Free

Join us as **Martin Friedland**, Professor of Law Emeritus at U of T and Officer of the Order of Canada discusses his fascinating new book *The University of Toronto: A History*.

Hart House Library • 7 Hart House Circle (2nd Floor)

Wednesday April 10th, 7:30 pm • Free

Join us for an evening of culture and creativity. Author **Tim Bowling** brings together the poetic voices of our nation in a new compilation *Where the Words Come From: Canadian Poets in Conversation*.

You will hear from **Roo Borson**, **Dennis Lee**, **Eric Ormsby**, **Stephanie Bolster**, who will also be launching her new book *Pavilion*, **Ken Babstock**, **David O'Meara**, and **Carmine Starnino**.

Innis Town Hall • 2 Sussex Ave (just off St. George)

Thursday April 11th, 7:30 pm • Free

Host **Thomas King** introduces two new, and very different, voices in literature. **David J. Davidar** reads from his first novel *The House of Blue Mangoes*, an engrossing family saga set against the backdrop of India's fight for independence. **Hartley GoodWeather** (the pseudonym for an acclaimed Canadian literary author) presents his wonderful new mystery, *Dreadful Water Shows Up*.

Alumni Hall in Old Vic • 91 Charles Street West

Wednesday April 17th, 7:30 pm • Free

Take a look at both sides of our justice system. Journalist **Doug Clark**'s new book *Dark Paths, Cold Trails* discusses how high-tech advances have aided the RCMP in tracking down Canada's predators. Human rights advocate **Michael Jackson** discusses his views in *Justice Behind the Walls: Human Rights in Canadian Prisons*, and bestselling author **Shawn Thompson** takes us into the prisoner's thoughts with *Letters From Prison*.

Hart House Library • 7 Hart House Circle (2nd Floor)

Thursday April 18th, 7:30 pm • Free

Water, water everywhere. Director of the International Forum on Globalization **Maude Barlow** discusses the future of water as co-author of a new book *Blue Gold: The Battle Against Corporate Theft of the World's Water*. Journalist **Colin Perkel** brings it close to home with his book *Well of Lies: The Walkerton Water Tragedy*, discussing what happened there, and how it could happen again anywhere.

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Sunday Afternoon in April

BY LAUREN GRIMALDI

tulip tree, creamy white petal lips,
stretch up.
the grey sky presses down
and branches shudder with the wind

crocuses have pushed up purple
spread like paint, spilt
over the yellow green grass

a goose fat and wandering
along the side of the highway
eats the winter's garbage

finches, red breasts blushing
fly from bush to bush
announcing the awakening.

Found

BY RIMA RABBA

I'm 6 feet away from losing
and I keep looking below
at times the drop seems refresh-
ing
and I'm tempted to go

But everything I look down
I see a reflection of me,
and I hesitate on who I am,
and who I really see.

Seconds seem like minutes,
hours seem like days,
and I am still here standing,
lost in my own maze.

The game is getting harder
and the skill is getting strong.
Determined to weaken my being.
Determined to prove me wrong.

And I am tempted to cave,
and let this struggle win,
but that doesn't show for any-
thing,
of what I've done and been.

and though I've lost my balance.
Tempted to jump and fail.
I remembered who I was.
and what I'm meant to nail.

So I sat along the edge,
of the choice I had to make
and realized my destiny,
and became more real than fake.

so with my hands in my head,
I cried with emotions deep,
I'm on the road to save myself,
and the promises yet too keep.

LETTERS, OPINIONS & RANTS

In place of REALM (our annual arts and literature insert) this year, we're running a four-page pull-out of UTM's letters, opinions and rants. By popular demand, here are your words from the heart...

Student Leadership at UTM: How it can be improved

BY JAN MAW

Leadership. You hear it a lot when you enter student governance. It's a character trait that means much to being an effective student leader, but without cultivation, it can also mean very little.

The student leaders of UTM are thrown into a position that offers opportunities to grow and become the ideal student leader. They are supposed to be the voice of students. They are supposed to be leaders.

However, most students that enter into student governance do not know how to perform as effective student leaders and it's not their fault. It does not come naturally to most people. Only with practice and coaching will you become good at it.

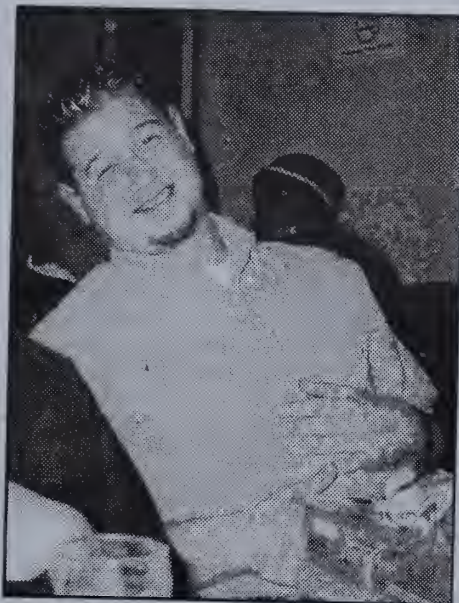
Throughout the year, students have written letters that point out the regular goofy antics of student politicians and their organizations.

Offended students snivel and whine that their student leaders aren't being leaders or representing their views properly to administration. We must remember one thing. Student leaders are human and therefore, they make mistakes.

It's common for people to pile on someone when they are down. It's easy to bitch about a situation and beat down someone for the mistake they made, rather than to try to offer advice on how to improve the situation.

How can we produce more effective future student leaders? I believe that only ongoing support from administration and the promotion of this support by student organizations will create effective student leaders at UTM.

Currently, leadership development is primarily offered during the summer term. UTM student leaders are invited to attend a leadership conference in May. This daylong meeting familiarizes new student leaders with the UTM



Residence Manager Jan Maw has had his fill of student leadership this year.

system and gives them the basic tools to become effective leaders. Also, the conference provides students with an opportunity to get to know other student leaders from other organizations at UTM.

Unfortunately, during the summer, some students move away from the campus, others work full-time jobs, others take courses and others take time to travel.

"Student Leadership 101" needs to be moved to the latter part of the spring term. I know it's a busy time of the year, but at least everyone is here.

One meeting cannot communicate and teach students fundamental leadership qualities. Members of student organizations should be

able to receive continual development from administration. Offering seminars to all students throughout the year would promote better and more knowledgeable student leaders.

Perhaps the May conference could serve as the introductory course, while subsequent seminars offered during the year could focus on one element within that initial seminar.

Student leader development does not stop with administration however. An effort has to be made by student leaders too. Student leaders, when leaving office, should stress the importance of leadership development projects to the upcoming leaders.

Student organizations need to be prepared for student leader turnover. Student leaders need to take steps to ensure that once their current council leaves, their information and experiences don't leave with them. Detailed logbooks that outline all the initiatives of the council should be kept and passed on from the departing to the arriving leaders.

Combining the above-mentioned ideas will produce the student leaders we want at UTM. Teaching students to be effective leaders is a win-win situation. It will reduce instances of childish antics, which UTM's past "student leaders" have regularly practiced and replace them with productive exchanges between students and administration.

Students will be more satisfied with their representatives and administration will feel more comfortable working with these representatives.

"Men... a Leader?" is a phrase that I repeated to myself when I was first became a Don two years ago.

By seriously considering these suggestions, hopefully we can reduce the utterance of these words in the minds of our future student leaders.

Maybe then our campus paper won't be littered with ECSU fan mail.

Your student union is hard at work

ECSU IS CURRENTLY CONSPIRING AGAINST:

Students at large – Thanks for your money, you chumps.

Heidi – We're talking about you right now.

All previous ECSU employees – We're SO MUCH BETTER than you were. We're actually embarrassed for you.

Mark Overton – We don't really know why we say things about you, we just decided for fun.

All election candidates – You'll NEVER replace us ooooooh we're so very bitter.

Info Booth Staff – Don't talk unless we say you can...bitch.

The Medium – Stop telling the truth all the time – it's just not fair.

SEC – All we wanted was a cheap lay, you sluts.

Clubs – We spent the money we were going to give you on video games and big screen TVs.

Vibe – Who do you think called Industry Canada? Fools! Muhahahahaha!

Pub – Keep up the good work! (Ahhhh free liquor another round on the students' tab!)

EPUS – Who?

Jason Nicols – You don't look like a piano to us.

Breakdown – We haven't figured out how to violate human rights yet, but we're on it.

Nicole – Why do you think your SAC directors never keep their office hours? Send \$20 in an unmarked bill to ECSU or else.

Residence – Get back in your cages you filthy animals.

Childcare Services – And we would have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for you meddling kids.

Mary Halopulos – We used your money to build statues of Erick and Adil in the Meeting Place the constitution said we could.

Angry Medium letter writers – We are currently experiencing a higher than normal volume of complaints. Your concerns will be addressed in the order in which they have been received. Please hold, your letter is important to us.

Adam Giles – If you think we're going to show our parents our report card, you're dead wrong mister.

Matt Sullivan
Paul Banwatt

Note: This letter does not necessarily reflect the opinion of ECSU (or the opinions of its writers for that matter)

UTM issues: multi-faith, CFS, student code of conduct

BY MOHAMMED HASHIM
BREAKDOWN ORGANIZER

ECSU bashing has become a popular theme in the Medium and therefore, I shall refrain and try to offer only constructive criticism.

First, I would like to acknowledge ECSU's efforts in increasing communication between the five student councils on QSS which I felt has, to some degree, created a united front for the students in administrative decisions.

As you probably know QSS has nine voters out of which five are student votes, thus the ultimate control lays in the hands of the students among many issues. I would also like to congratulate ECSU in their efforts to increase the visibility and effective usage of the Student Centre.

However, I would like to talk about ECSU's apprehension towards CFS. On Tuesday, Joel Duff and Rick Telfer from CFS and SAC President Alex Kerner came down to talk to ECSU about joining CFS as prospective members.

Right now, SAC is a prospective member. So is Scarborough. ESCU, on the other hand, is not because they don't feel that Erindale students should have a separate vote at CFS.

I find this to be the ECSU's stupidest decision of all time. They have no intention of giving Erindale students a vote. If they cared, they would have at least had a motion at their last bullshit General Meeting. We are all going to be members under SAC. If ECSU applied

they would get the same privileges as SAC, SCSU, APUS and the GSU for no additional costs, but as it stands ECSU is planning to leave the Erindale students out in the cold. Thanks. Instead they have CFS rival CASA making a presentation on Tuesday.

What ECSU doesn't understand is that, under CASA by-laws, ECSU can't become members if SAC is part of CFS. Here's some advice: get your students a vote! Try to join the rest of U of T rather than further isolate yourselves.

I was speaking to ECSU President Erick McKinlay and I asked him what he accomplished as President this year. He replied that he got the parking commission to submit their recommendations to ECSU in September and that he got a few people on ECC sub-committees. Yay! That's it.

If I ever had to leave a legacy as a president, these are some of the things I would definitely be sooo proud of. I hope next year's president will take student issues more seriously and not be a master in circle talking (a.k.a. shit talking).

There are 75 positions for students in ECC sub-committees – out of which maybe five are taken. This apathy I blame on ECSU, who as the student union should better promote and involve their students in university decision making.

The students have it pretty sweet here at Erindale, where there are ample opportunities for them to get involved. However, our union doesn't feel that

they should promote these positions or get the students involved. So for God's sakes get people involved in the administration if you want to shape the school's policy.

When talking about the lack of student representation, the role of SAC UTM also needs to be mentioned. There are tons of events and issues that SAC downtown and Scarborough tackled that I feel the UTM Commission failed to bring to our community. Such as gaining awareness of the referendum question about the "Multi-faith awareness fund," which failed mostly due to the suburban campuses according to the SAC CRO Mike Foderick.

I think issues of such importance should not fail, SAC and the Medium should increase awareness to ensure multi-faith issues are taken seriously and not defeated in a referendum. UTM SAC represents a lot of multiple faiths and in my opinion, they should have worked harder on getting support to ensure this motion passed as downtown's did.

Also, weeks like "Expression Against Oppression" took place both downtown and at Scarborough but not here at Erindale. I feel the UTM Commission failed to represent the students here. On top of that, they failed to pass a motion to subsidize the "Environment and Social Justice Week" here at Erindale put on by the two clubs – Breakdown and EEA. I guess SAC UTM felt issues of social justice and the environment only affected downtown and Scarborough.

Also, extremely important issues like the change to the Student Code of Conduct at the Governing Council, which seriously challenges the students' freedom of expression and assembly, were topics that neither SAC UTM, ECSU or the Medium cared to inform the students about. Since we have a newspaper, maybe we should hear about the important issues and not just bickering between ECSU and the Medium.

Honestly, it is hard for me to see how our student representatives have actually represented the students. They cared little about very important issues like multi-faith, the Student Code of Conduct and Social Awareness and mostly directly their attentions to parking for which they themselves taped their mouths shut.

ECSU blabbed on about how they didn't get informed about the parking and yada, yada, yada but I ask you: did ECSU or SAC inform you on any of the issues I bring forth in this letter. I think not, because ECSU has become not a student representative body, but a platform for career politicians.

Ask McKinlay what riding he is going to run in for the Liberals. However, I should say that not all the members of ECSU are like this and some are doing it for the student cause.

Finally, I think that there have been significant accomplishments by the councils and I hope they further their efforts to better the student condition by getting people involved and increasing communication between themselves. United we stand, divided we get fucked.

Student privileged to have learned from brightest minds in the world

BY JEFF MASON

This being the last edition of the Medium that I will read as an undergraduate student here at UTM, I felt that I would take this opportunity to rant a little and reflect a little on the four years I've spent here.

Let's talk about student leadership. As regular readers of the Medium will know, I am not ECSU's biggest supporter. Over the past four years I have become more and more aware of the fact that every full-time undergraduate contributes money to fund our student union. But what exactly does this money (\$24.25 – one of our larger incidental fees) actually get the students?

If you take this year as an example you would see that our \$24.25 bought us a pub that continues to run a debt, some laundry bags for the freshmen, an unadvertised general meeting, a possibly corrupt election and the best part of all, the honour of being represented to administration by a group of characters who, when they aren't fighting amongst themselves, are talking in circles, or taping their mouths shut. Oh! if only the duct tape had been brought out at the beginning of the year, perhaps we wouldn't have had to listen to the nonsense that comes out of that office.

More than ever, representation for full-time students on this campus is in dire need of an overhaul. Before this year I had never openly criticized ECSU's business, but if something is not done to improve the quality of people representing us there is no doubt in my mind that things will only continue to get worse.

Every full-time student needs to realize that ECSU is accountable to you. You pay their salary. You elect them. Don't continue to settle for this half-assed attempt at leadership. ECSU is supposed to be there for you and if they're not then they aren't doing their job and should step down.

Incompetence and indifference lie not only with our student leaders but also with administration. I have always found it bewildering that we take so much shit from them and rarely do we fling it back in their face. One reality of a publicly funded institution is that in order for anyone working at UTM to get paid, students must go here. If we didn't, the funding would just go somewhere else.

Changes in the way money is dolled out to universities by the government now mean that every head is worth money. So why do you feel second-rate to administration? The time for sneaking in unapproved incidental fees, and secret meetings is over. Speak up and get involved. Most meetings at this college are open for anyone to attend.

Administration and elected student leaders need to work together in the best interest of the students. The first step in doing this would be to make sure everyone knows about every decision that has been made about our money. If new student leaders are aware of what has been discussed in the past and the promises that have been made then time will not be wasted discussing why we pay money to so and so, and who said what. It's called open communication. What a novel idea.

So enough about ECSU and administration. Let's talk Sean O'Leary. Sean, I'd like to know what made you so bitter. Now I know this seems like the pot calling the kettle black but I'll make up for my rant later. The words that you put to paper absolutely astound me. I mean, as a former student leader one would think that you would have something constructive to contribute to the school. Apparently with those dreams of becoming the King of SAC quashed last year in another example of a corrupt election, you now have nothing better to do than right letters to Medium every week that prove how lucky we are the whole SAC thing didn't work out. Seriously Sean, grow up. Graduate or something and spare the school your ramblings. Or at least have the guts to talk directly to people when you criticize them and don't beat around the bush – that's Erick's job.

By now most graduating students realize that the final U of T insult comes once you've had enough and have decided to get out. This insult comes delivered right to your door in a nice thick envelope with words printed on fancy paper and a fridge magnet to boot. I'm talking about *Gratitude*. I feel so privileged that the university wants me to donate some money to help save North Building or whatever line of BS they are feeding me. But come on, how dare the people I've seen piss money away for four years come to me, on the eve of my escape and ask for money? I've already shelled out thousands of dollars to the leeches. Why should I pay more? It is unbelievable that any organization at this university feels that it is appropriate

to ask us for money when most of us haven't finished paying them yet. And the best part is that unless you dig really hard you won't find anything in the *Gratitude* package about UTM. Thanks for the magnet that tells me I spent "1,200 nights studying at Roberts." I've never even been at Roberts past 7:00 p.m. because I had to catch the bus back (ah, the joys of suburban life). So *Gratitude*, if you're reading this thanks but no thanks – and don't call me at home again either.

But enough of the negative. I'd like to end this piece on an up note. For all the crap we deal with to earn that piece of paper that says U of T on it, I admit that I would never trade it for another university experience. I consider myself lucky for having met the best of the best my first day here back in September 1998. I consider myself privileged to have learned from some of the brightest minds in the world. And it was an honour to be allowed to represent students' rights and opinions in an institution that encourages us to keep quiet. To see the school recognize so many people for their contributions to UTM and the community this year that they needed two days to do it is amazing. Next year I hope there are so many awards they need three. Just think of what this school would be if every student took an hour of their week to make it better.

So, to the UTM community of students, faculty, staff, and administration I say thanks, it's been a great ride. There is so much good on the horizon for this school. I'm kind of sad that I'll miss out on it. But it's been a blast and it's time to go.

Dancers not whores or strippers

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you in regards to the caption under the picture of the Dance Troupe in last week's paper. First of all, I understand that it was an attempt at a clever joke, but whoever wrote it has to get his or her facts straight. The Dance Troupe is in no way associated with any school organization or "political controversy," nor did we picket in front of the Blind Duck Pub at any time whatsoever.

Second, I, along with my fellow Dance Troupe members, take great offence to the remark, "Among their demands – cages and poles." I think I am correct in assuming, along with many other people, that this implies that you feel we are just a bunch of 'whores' or 'strippers.' Well, let me clear up something else for you. The people who make up our group have put in hours of hard work and effort. We've tried to do

something positive for the pub. Our goal was to get exposure and experience, and help promote events to encourage people to attend the pub more often.

We have had great support and encouragement from our friends and many students at Erindale. By writing this remark, however, you have completely demoralized our image and turned something positive into a joke. We feel that your judgment is totally unacceptable and disrespectful to us as students of this school. Your ignorant comment will certainly not help our image and will surely discourage other people from joining the Dance Troupe in the future.

The members of the Dance Troupe feel it would be appropriate for the person who wrote the caption to issue an apology.

Sincerely,
Marta Bialecki

Banwatt appeals ECSU report card

Last week's outpouring of letters by snide former ECSU employees, bitter election losers, and bitchy, envious ECSU wannabes, was not surprising. It is your ECSU report card that I take the most issue with. Adam, your editorial didn't prove that ECSU failed this year, it just showed how out of touch you are. You can't think of any ECSU accomplishments? Maybe that's because you haven't been around. I know you haven't attended any of my events this year (Baby Blue, WET, Battle of the Bands, DJ Battle, Mosaic, Wrestling Pub, Student Appreciation Pub, etc.). You weren't even at Frosh Week. As for the quality of our leadership, how would you even know what Erick has done this year? You don't attend any of the school committee meetings at which Erick represents the full-time students, such as QSS or SCMB meetings. You don't attend ECSU general meetings (both advertised and unadvertised ones...). Do you think you can assess his leadership based on what your reporters tell you? If the pathetic story you wrote on the ECSU Election Forum (at which you only personally witnessed the question period) was any indication, then your reporters don't tell you anything. On the other hand, you do attend ECC meetings. Maybe that's why you can remember ECSU doing something positive there.

As for your three 'disappointments':
1) Frost Week was not cancelled because ECSU couldn't plan safety into the event. The event was cancelled because administration threatened to take

away ECSU's liquor license were something to go wrong. We were unwilling to risk the Blind Duck for a single event. The reasons for Frost Week's cancellation were outlined in a letter to your newspaper that you clearly haven't read.

2) The issue of the Student Centre Events Coordinator Jason Nicols having access to the DJ booth is not trivial. Pub Manager Maxine Dawkins agrees fully that the issue of access requires a lot of attention. Why don't you go talk to her? Furthermore, this is the Student Centre. Jason is a member of the administration. This building should be run the way students want. Access and control is just the beginning. The Student Centre Events Coordinator acting more like a building manager (as he has been) is something that at least needs attention.

3) I won't try to defend the lack of advertising for the General Meeting. It was clearly insufficient. However, it is interesting that your 'unbiased' reporting never mentioned that ECSU's constitution only requires one General Meeting per year. That requirement was met last November. This meeting was purely optional, as is the next one.

Adam, I won't do something as ridiculous as give you a grade on your editorial work. I just hope that you realize the disservice you do to students that count on you for an informed opinion by ranting with your eyes closed.

Paul Banwatt
ECSU Special Projects Director

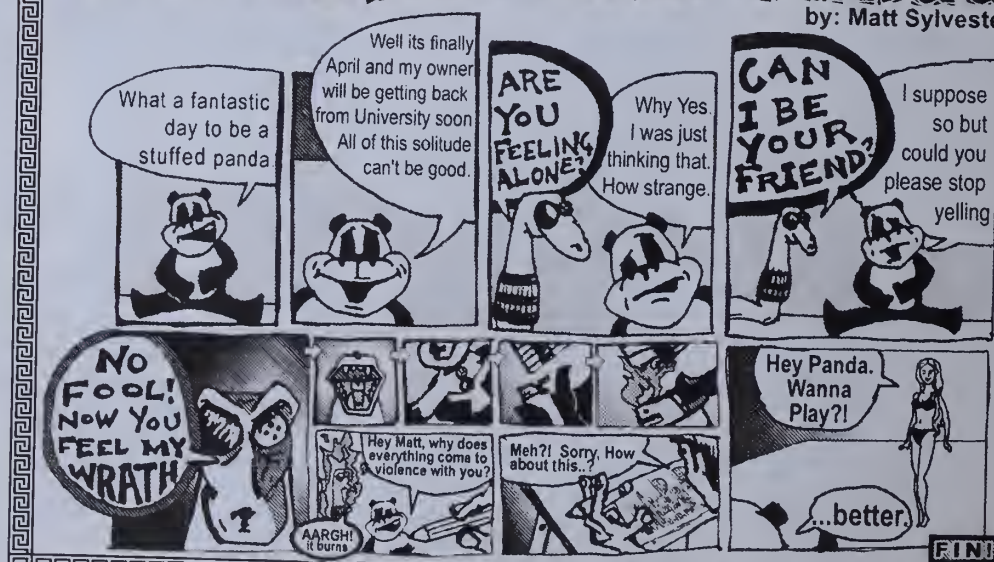
BETWEEN CLASSES

Anonymous • BY NICK MAANDAG



Schizophrenic Panda

by: Matt Sylvester



Medium Editorial Board Elections Winners: Congratulations to:

Tamara Sulliman
– Editor-in-Chief

Stephanie Lazarevski
– Composite Editor

Andrea Civichino
– Arts & Entertainment Editor

Michelle Rabba
– News Editor

Kai-Lii Veer
– Photography Editor

Note: The positions of Sports Editor and Features Editor are still open – keep your eyes open for a by-election next year.

Student wishes Erindale, friend goodbye

It's been four years. Four years of all-niters, too much coffee and far too many regrets. Four years of fast food, interesting people, and the pursuit of knowledge.

These four years, I was once told, would be the defining moments of my life and would forever and undelibly bear on my future and the future of those around me. I hate it when people say stuff like that because if they're right (and invariably they are) you know you'll never forget them (no matter how much you drink or try).

I had originally intended to write this letter as a fire and brimstone sort of parting shot at all those things that have annoyed me over the last four years.

But, as I thought about it and gave more and more energy to the writing of this letter, I found that I did not want to leave this place on that note. I found that all I ever wanted to do was say goodbye to certain people and perhaps leave a few words of advice for the first years...

Okay, and a few second years...

And the odd third year...

All right, for whom ever will read it.

To begin, I want to thank my professors and teaching assistants who never let me forget that I was nothing and am still nothing – and if I ever get it into my head that I am something, they will persist in convincing me of the opposite. Regardless of my feelings towards the individuals who systematically stole roughly 3.72 years of my life away from me, I must say thanks. For your knowledge, work and, in some cases, your tolerance. Your diligence and understanding are inspiring and your jobs, quite often, thankless. So in order to try to balance things a little, thank you.

Next, I need to thank the Registrar's office, which single-handedly stole 0.72 of those years. They confused me, turned me around in circles and purposely avoided my questions – and when I want them to screw up, they go and do something right (ALL I NEEDED WAS FOR YOU TO TYPE 4.0 IN THE CGPA COLUMN). Could have been worse though – I could still owe them money. In all honesty though, I am grateful that in my time here I've had "few" issues with these people who do good work and have so much of it. You have maintained a level of efficiency that can only compliment those who are members of your office.

The next office on my list is the Academic Skills Centre. The work you people do is fantastic and without you my time here would have been less than fulfilling. I stumbled into your ranks three years ago and now it saddens me greatly to have to leave.

I have learned a great many skills that I know will carry me through the next few stages of life. And I have met and worked with people whom I have come to admire and call friends. I hope in the coming years with the "double cohort" when your services will be needed more than ever, the students who do need you will find you and I hope the energy you need to help them, will be there in abundance. Your work is honorable and you all do it well, so thank you Tom, Brock, and San and anyone else whom I may have neglected to mention.

The only people at Erindale who know more than the Registrar's office and the librarians are easily the academic secretaries. These people serve students day in and day out, by answering questions of great mystery to the average first-year (what's a "drop box"?).

They are tireless in their duties and stalwart in their occupying of their desks. Until five o'clock, when the last place you want to be is in front of any of the academic secretaries' doors lest you want to lose life or limb. After all is said and done though, those kind people have probably saved me almost half of the 0.72 years that the Registrar's office stole. Thanks ladies, you're the best.

Now let's see, who shall I deal with next? Let me move on to the library (and I mean the whole library system not just our fine collection in the South Building). I have one simple message and I hope I am clear in this: I KNOW THEY ARE OVERDUE AND MY PARENTS DON'T CARE SO STOP CALLING MY HOME TO REMIND ME. HELL, I HAVE TO CHECK MY DRIVER'S LICENCE JUST TO REMEMBER WHERE I LIVE WHEN I DO GO HOME!

As you can see, there is no point in calling me there. That said, I can't think of how many projects and papers I would never have finished if I hadn't had the librarians and the collections at the Erindale library so I do owe you all a vote of thanks. Your knowledge of knowledge is the single most amazing asset that any student can tap into. Your work, though not often acknowledged, is very much appreciated.

The next group of people I need to discuss are the computing services people. You have a great many computers and an even greater number of users to contend with – although the systems are often slow and not in complete working order and prone to crashing and not in complete working order. I have to commend you on your struggle to remain on top of things. Without the computer labs both at Erindale and downtown, many an assignment would have been late or not handed in at all.

This leaves one major component of my life at UTM. The Student Centre and everything involved with it. This I will keep brief. To ECSU: never forget your job and the reason you exist – for the students. It's easy to lose sight of the obvious when you're swamped.

To the pub and its staff and the administration: The pub is an oasis of sanity in an otherwise insane world. The students should recognize that without their continued support, the pub will not exist. And regardless of your feelings about it, I challenge anyone who has not at least had lunch there or gone to a Pub Night to try it. It is worth the trip, I assure you. Support your campus and it will support you.

The administration, specifically the SCMB: Stop trying to create fanciful and miraculous solutions for the pub. Get back to grass roots. Get some comfortable chairs and tables that don't move more than the people on the dance floor. There are plenty of things that are broken. Fix them – don't try and figure out a way to cage off the bar so you can use the rest of the room as study space. Talk to the staff and see what they think the pub should do – they are the people who work there everyday, so stop ignoring them.

Listen to the manager – she sees the problems and can probably give a simple solution. I for one can testify that she made my life a programmer one heck of a lot simpler. To the staff, thank you for being you. For having something nice to say when the rest of the world was falling apart. Thanks for your advice and, for the most part, just listening when someone needed to rant. Thank you for being my oasis.

The last people I have to thank can't be thanked in a few words and I hope to see all of them in the next few weeks. But if this just happens to be the last piece of me they come in contact with, know this:

You have truly touched my life and for this I can never repay you. You have made me the man I am today and for this I am grateful. You have affected both in presence and in absence and this I will never forget...

I would like to leave these two parting thoughts:

"Come my friends, 'tis not too late to seek a brave, new world." – Alfred Lord Tennyson

"If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, 'thank you,' that would suffice." – Meister Eckhart

Good-bye and Thank-you.

Frank Scali
Cheeco

My years as a student leader...

BY NICOLE PHILLIPS

My first taste of Erindale came seven years ago when I visited my brothers on rez. I knew then I wanted to spend my university years at UTM.

In my four years here I've heard tons of complaints about UTM, everything from "it's too much like a high school" or "the Student Centre is a big waste of space" or "students are too apathetic" to "the Pub sucks and old Pub was better." I never fail to get frustrated when I hear these things, as it is because of this attitude that people are deprived of an unforgettable university experience.

First, don't complain that UTM is too much like a high school – chances are you saw the school before you applied so you knew what to expect.

Secondly, the Student Centre isn't as bad as you'd like to think. People do come by and things do happen here – mini golf, rock climbing, seminars, student appreciation days... the list goes on. You can also come by the SAC office any time and get cheap photocopies, free gitz and computer access – what more could you want?

Thirdly, students are apathetic because they choose to be. Choose to know more about what's happening here and maybe you'll feel more part of a community.

And finally, the pub. The good old BDP. Why oh why do people insist on beating on the duck? Why is it that everyone can come out for first pub and last pub and forget about the pubs in between and then complain that pub sucks?

You want to know why York pub is good? It's because *people actually go*. Don't complain that pub isn't good if don't make the effort to go.

In all my years here I've discovered three things that made my years here exceed expectations:



SAC UTM Commissioner Nicole Phillips says goodbye to life in the Student Centre.

1. If you commute, get to know people on rez. They know more about what's happening at school than you. You may have also found a place to crash if you're studying late or drink a little too much at pub.

2. Get involved. Be it SAC, ECSU, writing for the Medium, Clubs. ANYTHING. You'll be surprised at the number of people you meet and the friendships that you will make. You'll also know more about what's happening on campus.

3. Be a Frosh leader. Definitely one of the most rewarding experiences I've had at UTM. It's an amazing opportunity to greet the kids while getting to know present students and your ECSU council.

I could go on, but if there's one thing I want to emphasize to all students it's this: this is YOUR school and YOUR university experience. You only get one go at it. Don't sit around complaining that this sucks or that sucks. Go to the events advertised. Better yet, offer to help at these events – most of them really are good. And whatever you do, make the Frosh be proud to go to UTM.

Lie to them if you have to, but don't spoil it for them before they get the chance to judge for themselves.

THE MEDIUM

Student Work

The Medium is hiring copy editors, a webmaster, and a distribution manager for the upcoming school year.

Copy Editors – Copy Editors edit all articles for grammar, spelling, style, and punctuation. Copy Editors must be available to work 5-10 hours per week, divided between Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Candidates must take a copy-editing test. Candidates must be English or Professional Writing students, or have related experience.

Distribution Manager – The distribution manager delivers The Medium to stands at UTM, St. George, Chapters Bookstore, and Mississauga's Public Library system. Candidates must deliver every Monday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., so candidates must have those times free every week all year. Candidates must have a car.

Webmaster – The webmaster writes and maintains The Medium's webpage on a weekly basis. Candidates must be detail oriented, skilled with layout and design, and have working knowledge of webpage design programmes.

All candidates for all positions must submit a resume and cover letter to Tamara Sulliman ASAP.

ECSU representing students? Uh huh...

BY ADAM GILES

I walked into the Council Chambers last Tuesday for a 2:10 meeting of the Erindale College Council – the highest governing body at the University of Toronto at Mississauga. The room was eerily quiet as I made my way my usual seat – left side, fourth row, end chair. As I sat in my seat, I watched UTM community members walk into the Council Chambers one by one. Director of Business Services Christine Capewell sat in the front row. Principal Robert McNutt chatted with ECC Chair Edith Poe at the front of the room.

Career Centre Manager Joan McCurdy Myers, Athletics Director Ken Dunccliffe, Professor Guy Allen – they were all there. But the council couldn't conduct business because it didn't have its required 30-member quorum.

One thing stood out though. It wasn't just the lack of quorum. Something else was not right. There was an absence. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but yes, something was definitely missing from the room.

Of course, I thought, glancing at the student leaders who were present: Residence Manager Jan Maw, SAC Mississauga

Commissioner Nicole Phillips and Medium Editors Tammi Sulliman and Melissa Verge. Our full-time student union wasn't there. ECSU, which logged a significant amount of time bitching about cancelled ECC meetings this year and the injustice of it all, wasn't there.

No Paul Banwatt.

No Elizabeth Wong.

No Matt Sullivan.

No Sean O'Connell.

No Danielle Macdonald.

No Adil Mirza.

No Stuardo.

I smirked and shook my head. So much for representing students. I guess they were joking.

Why create conflict?

Rant, rant, rant: O'Ranty's last rant

BY ANU HEIDI SHUKLA

Ten years from now: who will you be? Where will you be? Who will you know?

Hopefully you won't still be an undergraduate. Hopefully you will be somewhere that inspires you. And hopefully you'll still know every person that has ever touched you as well as those who are waiting for that opportunity to prove themselves unforgettable to you. The people that create you are around you all the time.

University has been full of these experiences and realizations that have led me to truly believe that there is no point in conflicts that result in the vanishing of friendships.

Although, sometimes those dissociations are needed for your creation. Unfortunately, sometimes it's hard to see that the things that tear us apart aren't going to be an issue ten years from now.

There's a difference in what we see as important now and what we will ten years from now. If you still don't think so, take a step back and see the forest for the trees; find who's been true to you all along, who's always been real and told you the truth even when it hurts.

Being here has taught me so much about relationships – above all, that all those damn forwards were right: there's someone out there who cares about you, the person you least expected will be there for you when you most need it and that those you love most will be the first to be taken away from you.

With so much conflict in this world, why create it? Why fuel it? People do make mistakes and so do you – it's so much easier on your soul if you only see the goodness in others.

It's so much easier ten years from now to joke about things and see how you've changed and created the person you want to become.

BY SEAN O'LEARY

As a closing rant, I am following the advice of a Chicago times columnist, who said everyone should write a valedictorian speech at one point or another:

In five years at UTM I learned a great deal, most of it outside the classroom. I have learned about people, though the fairer sex still remains a mystery to unwrap.

Everyone who attends UTM rarely sees the bigger picture, so caught up in our own struggles and lives, that we fail to see the world around us or the people sitting the next seat.

I have lived the quiet, remote world and in the public eye. I think everyone should hold a political position, where they are accountable to everyone else and only self motivated, at least once.

Regardless of how big or how small the position, life is lived through politics of the world around us. With the Real World Game, either you play it or it plays you. If you don't know the rules, stay on life's bench.

I learned that a true friend is harder to see, and harder to keep, than a GPA.

I've learned that there is no substitute for working hard and that true work is always noticed.

In the end, it can be no better than to say the best policy is honesty. Anyone can lie, anyone can cheat. And you can get away with it.

Whether it comes back to haunt you or not, it is still harder to look another person in the eyes and say "I'm wrong." It is harder still to say that from behind the microphone of a podium, with the eyes of friends, enemies and media watching.

Mostly I have learned about myself. I've learned what is to truly love and to see it walk away for no reason. I've been a shoulder to cry on and needed one every once and a while. I've been to my break point and back many times. I've pushed myself harder in diversity and strove to over come rather than shy away. I have also shied away.

I have learned most importantly that a 'friend' who cheats you is not a friend. And that business, while taken personally, can be separate. I learned not to date people I work for, with or around.

But most of all, I've learned that a minute listening to advice of someone who can help is worth ten hours of work. And that ten hours of work from the heart is as valuable to you as it is to those you help.

Martyrdom: Religious principles vs. life

BY JOHN CURRIE

Every Wednesday, my I join my friends from school at Kelsey's for a beer. We launch into great topics. Last week, during icy glasses of Rickard's Red, one girl went around the table and asked us what scares us. She started with herself and said spiders, heights, men with mullets. She came to me and I said people who kill for religion.

We never really got into a discussion. A round of nods signaled agreement and I turned to the person beside me, who said she wasn't really sure what scared her and needed to go for a smoke and promised she'd think about it.

Today I ask you, what scares you? For me it's language – especially the language of religion.

In the Toronto Star on March 30, Yasser Arafat said, "They either want to kill me, capture me, or expel me, and I say may God grant me martyrdom, martyrdom, martyrdom... I am a martyr in the making."

A martyr – I looked it up – is one who chooses to suffer death rather than renounce religious principles. Martyrs are people who refuse to admit that their religion, their tradition, their way of seeing the world and organizing themselves in it may be wrong.

A martyr, therefore, is saying that he or she values their time on earth less than their religious principles, their ideas. They will forego the sanctity of their own human life in order to enter into what they may see as profound sacrifice.

To sacrifice is to forego something highly valued for the sake of something having a greater value or claim. At one level, the suicide bomber may highly value their earthly existence, but may place even higher value on their religious principles.

Therefore, they sacrifice their lives for their ideas. It is simplistic for me to say merely ideas, when the martyr does what he or she does with a profound sense of the future, of effecting an outcome with their sacrificial actions.

Yet by ending their own lives, they end their own futures. Lives take time. The person who destroys their life in the name of their convictions cuts off all their time. They have no future, in which they may grow old and revisit their convictions with any wisdom long life may grant.

Sure, I say this with a tinge of hope and I realize that over time such people's zeal may only increase. Yet I remain hopeful to the wisdom of old age.

Suicide bombers and powered people such as Arafat have chosen to become martyrs. They have bonded with the language and the word martyr must leave their mouths and be heard by the press. Such is part of the martyrdom process.

Religious traditions are, by nature, human-based. For how little time have humans lived on the earth? How do humans narrow themselves by living in and dying for religious principles? Do martyrs realize the sanctity of life from a planetary perspective?

'Credible journalism' tips from ECSU elections chief

I would like to address several issues raised in Mr Scali's and Mr O'Leary's April 1st letter to The Medium.

The authors mention that there were candidates running in the election who were part time students and thus were ineligible to run.

If either Mr. Scali or Mr. O'Leary bothered to do any research, they would know that all part-time students who did run in the election had paid their full-time student fees and thus were eligible to run.

I also find it rather amusing that the authors' "source inside ECSU" was the only candidate running in the elections who managed a violation grand enough to get him considered to be kicked out.

A basic tenet of any sort of credible journalism is to have credible sources.

I would also like to mention that in all of this, despite having office hours twice a week, did neither Mr. Scali nor Mr O'Leary ever approach me to voice their concerns about their elections.

My hope is that, in the future, both Mr. Scali and Mr. O'Leary do research and talk to the proper authorities before writing baseless, rhetoric-filled letters to The Medium.

Sincerely,

Atif Sayed
Chief Returning Officer
2001-2002 ECSU elections

Thank you, thank you, thank you: to all the volunteers who make The Medium

Without the following people, we wouldn't have have been able to put together a paper. So, all of you listed below, please accept our sincerest thanks for your contributions this year:				
Laurence Cymet	Gia Pereira	Gina Rajack	Monica Verma	Kai-Lii Veer
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	Rick McLaren	David Reagan	Chris Nash	Dina Elhamahmy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

High Crimes a predictable military thriller

MOVIE REVIEW

BY CAROL DIAB

The day started off on the wrong side of the road (no, not literally). I ran to catch the bus, but I ended up waiting for it to arrive. The cup of coffee offered at the cinema dripped. I was relieved to finally enter the screening room, find a good seat and nap through the previews. The eerie music of the opening credits perched me up on the edge of the seat and I prepared myself for a thrilling ride up the suspense rollercoaster.

High Crimes features Ashley Judd as the beautiful Claire Kubik. Claire is the envy of every woman – I'm sure even a few men envy her picturesque life. She's a beautiful, intelligent lawyer that has a wonderful husband Tom (Jim Caviezel) and they're trying to start a family. The typical American dream come to life... or has it?

I came prepared for surprises and I wait anxiously for the pivotal point to arrive. There's a break-in at the house and I grasp my armchair in suspense. Why, oh why, don't they have a panic room? False alarm, it was just a few kids having fun. The camera angles make you suspicious of everyone in the street. And then it happens. The American military, without any warning, take Tom into custody. And his poor wife can't help – it's military court. But Claire doesn't give up – she makes it her mission to help her husband Tom and the truth about his identity starts to unravel.

Accused of killing innocent civilians during a military operation in El Salvador fifteen years earlier, Claire is at first shocked to hear of his secret past life under his real name, Ronald Chapman. Hearing the story, she is convinced of his innocence and teams up with a former military attorney, Charlie Grimes (Morgan Freeman), to fight the system and help her husband. Like any good thriller, they face several threats to their lives – the government is hiding something – and they set out to unravel the military cover-up initiated by a well-respected general.



Top: Ashley Judd, some other dude, and Morgan Freeman star in the thriller *High Crimes* – undoubtedly, one of the worst film titles ever.

Bottom: Jim Caviezel and Ashley Judd play telephone. Ashley Judd is a hottie.

Comic relief comes in the form of Lt. Embry (Adam Scott), a young, and sometimes inept, military attorney assigned to defend Tom and Jackie (Amanda Peet), Claire's wild and irresponsible younger sister.

With this performance, it is the first time Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman have teamed together since *Kiss the Girls*. In fact, *High Crimes* fits the same schema of a thriller that their previous movie established. It worked for *Kiss the Girls*, but here the twisted plot is overused and has become too predictable. The previews pointedly tell you to expect the "un-expected," and not to trust your initial judgment. Frankly, I'd rather not know there's a surprise ending, because it ends up ruining the surprise. Nonetheless, I'm sure everyone will give a little gasp at the

end of the movie and then claim they guessed what was going to happen, even if they didn't.

Like most blockbusters, there are a few loopholes. Even though I saw this movie at 10 a.m., still half asleep, I had to wonder why the filmmakers would assume that the public is unaware that military personnel are trained to lie, and therefore, could plausibly pass a polygraph test. It disappointed me that Claire, a successful and smart lawyer, did not grasp that idea right away (I guess that's what studying and not watching TV does to you). Despite the little discrepancies, *High Crimes* will keep you on the edge and tug on your emotional heartstrings as you anxiously watch out for all the interesting turns in the script. If you don't plan to over-ana-

ALBUM DISS OF THE WEEK

Telepopmusik
Genetic world
(EMI)



There are some cases when describing music in "scientific terms" is apropos. When the Beastie Boys came out with their *Sounds of Science* best-of album, it fit because the album showed how the band had evolved over the years. When Radiohead came out with *Ok Computer*, the band literally started a new science with one of the most original and eclectic investigations of humanity and its place in the modern world.

Which brings us to Telepopmusik, who seem to have gone overboard with the scientific theme. The tracks appear as different strands of DNA (the back of the album illustrates this by shaping various plants to look like DNA strands. What makes this album hard to listen to is that there seems to be no continuity. I don't know much about science, but when you connect all these "strains" together, you get a monster, a "freakish" compilation album

rather than a release.

There are some good points on this album, but they get lost between "Animal Man," which is a nonsensical rambling of how Juice Aleem is "just an animal," and "Do Hoola," which would have been decent if Soda-Pop rapped something intelligent. Mixing hip hop and geology is not a great premise for a CD.

But, if you love songs that end halfway through and change from one genre to another (case in point "Do Hoola," which changed from hip hop to light jazz) you'll love this album. Otherwise, Telepopmusik's *Genetic World* will just further your dislike of science.

—John McGlashan

Survivor Marquesas: Dumb and dumber lay the paddle down

TV REVIEW

BY ROBERT CHAN

Last week, Gina of Maraamu got the boot, Rob got John to admit he was gay and Robert and John blew the reward challenge.

Remember, Rob's the construction worker, Robert's the limo driver and I'm the one writing this review. Hope that clears everything up.

The producers finally offered another food reward – although the last time was a choice between rice and blankets and Rotu chose blankets. So technically, this was the first true food reward challenge.

After Rob proudly destroyed Paschal in the land relay, he handed the reigns over to quote, unquote 'Dumb and Dumber' (a.k.a. Robert and John). These two decided that paddling around

in circles was more fun than winning the race.

Surprisingly, Gina and Kathy made up the ground from the land relay and pulled an upset win over Rotu. Robert and John screwed up at the finish and didn't park their canoe close enough to their chain, therefore getting disqualified.

As fun as that was, the tension between Rob and John was the highlight of the show. Rob decided it would be fun to ask Zoe if she had an alliance with John, Tammy and Robert. Zoe said no and Rob went ballistic.

Rob then tried to make a scene with John, but John freely admitted to his alliance, taking the winds out of Rob's sails. There, there, Rob – not everyone's a sheep like your Maraamu mates.

Even better was when Rob lied to John's face and John handed Rob the shovel. That's just my demented way of saying John caught Rob's BS.

John gave Rob the old 100 percent guarantee that they were all one tribe going into the merge and would eliminate Maraamu first. Rob, unlike John's alliance mates, didn't buy it.

Since this is my last review for the season, I'll predict Vecepia to take it all, because the camera seems to avoid her. Of course, if she suddenly becomes the focus of an episode, we know she's gone.



I've had a predilection for girls with guns in the last few issues of *The Medium*. This week, *Survivor* finalists voted off Gina, the nature guide with the knife. It's almost as good as a gun.

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Indian Ink leaves a memorable stain



Fiona Reid delivers a remarkable performance as the fictional English poet Flora Crewe in Canstage's *Indian Ink*.

THEATRE REVIEW

BY JENNIFER MATOTEK

Last year, when my old roommate announced that she was going to visit India with her boyfriend for two months, I thought she was crazy. Not that I dislike India – I've never been there and I'd like to go there one day. But I can't say my desire to go there is incredibly strong, what with India's poverty, overpopulation, torturous heat, and lack of infrastructure.

Now that I've seen Canstage's *Indian Ink*, written by Tom Stoppard – who also wrote *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and penned 1998's *Shakespeare in Love* – I'm starting to understand why someone could feel such strong ties to a once-colonized, seemingly underdeveloped nation.

Fiona Reid, former star of the CBC sitcom favorite *King of Kensington* and established stage actor, stars in *Indian Ink* as fictional English poet Flora Crewe, who visits India to soothe her ailing health and lecture on the experience of being immersed in 1930s English literary society. The story of her relationship with a widowed Indian painter, Nirad Das (Sanjay Talwar), is played out on one side of the stage. On the other side the stage the audience watches Flora's sister Eleanor Swan (Hazel Desbarats), biographer Eldon Pike (Steve Ross) and Nirad Das' son, Anish (Vik Sahay)

piece together a portrait of 1930s India, also providing a literal and metaphorical portrait of Flora Crewe herself.

Reid is wonderful in the role of Flora Crewe – she's lithe, beguiling, sexy, and believable as the fictional poet who's been excluded from English society because of the sensual nature of her writing, and her own sensual nature. Sanjay Talwar, as the widowed Indian painter Nirad Das, is also compelling, as he slips in and out of his facade of English propriety to reveal glimpses of his insecurities as an artist and expose his strong political beliefs.

The supporting cast is equally wonderful, and I particularly enjoyed Hazel Desbarats' performance as Eleanor Swan, Flora's sister, and glowed with pride while watching Zaib Shaikh as Dilip and a graduate of UTM's Theatre and Drama Studies program. It was generally nice to see Canstage's usually whitewashed productions populated by other races for a change.

Director Richard Cottrell, who's directed Fiona Reid in five other productions, successfully steers her towards another great performance, but unfortunately, fails to adequately articulate many of the interesting nuances of the script, underplaying some of the important romantic themes and overplaying some of the more comic moments. The pacing of the production, which is stronger during the first half than it is in the second, is generally tight and breezy. But in the

latter half of the production, characters become all talk and no action, merely reciting the clever witticisms in Stoppard's script rather than reinforcing the play's central conflict and themes through meaningful stage business. Cottrell succeeds at keeping the play's expositional central conflict – exploring whether or not Flora Crewe had a sexual, romantic or intellectual relationship with the painter Nirad Das – in the foreground. Cottrell also intelligently lets Stoppard's exploration within the script of India and England's political strife remain as sheer and transparent a backdrop as Susan Benson's exquisite stage design.

Benson's backdrops, gently painted with swathes of colour on solid and translucent fabrics, whisk left and right out of the sides of the stage, doubling as perfect settings for 1930s India and 1980s England (although keeping the two portions on either stage left or stage right for most of the production creates a sort of tennis match for the audience, forcing them to dart their heads back and forth between scenes from the past and present).

Louise Guinand's lighting design also fails at capturing India's balmy heat and England's rainy grayness, instead treating both halves of the stage with a uniform, pallid, yellow, while exquisitely rendering a sombre, moonlit mood during the evening party scenes set in 1930s India. But despite these misgivings, Canstage's *Indian Ink* makes for a marvelous evening theatre, thanks to Fiona Reid's incredibly moving, gifted performance.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Arts and Entertainment section of The Medium this year!

And thanks to everyone who read the Arts and Entertainment section of The Medium this year!

I HOPE IT WAS BETTER THAN POURING LEMON JUICE ON PAPER CUTS.

Don't forget that The Medium will still need volunteer writers for the upcoming year! E-mail medium@canada.com and let us know if you're interested in writing.

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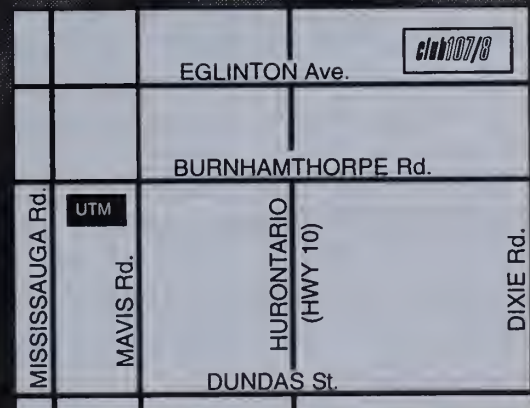
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Homoerotic thrills abound in the nostalgic baseball movie *The Rookie*

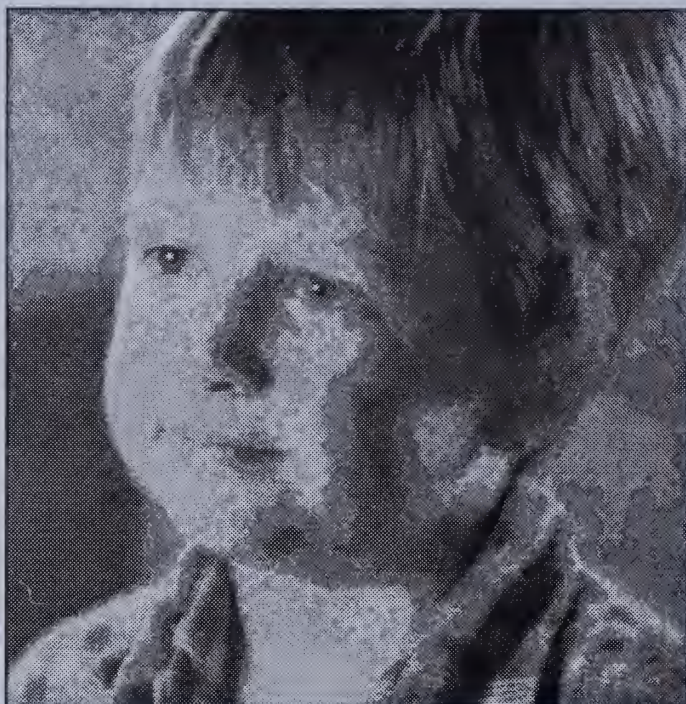
MOVIE REVIEW

BY JENNIFER MATOTEK

The *Rookie*, starring Dennis Quaid as Jim, a man who takes a shot at the major leagues at the age of 35 after making a bet with his high school baseball team, is thankfully based on a true story (I say thankfully, because for some reason I find it easier to swallow sentimental horseshit when I know it's for real).

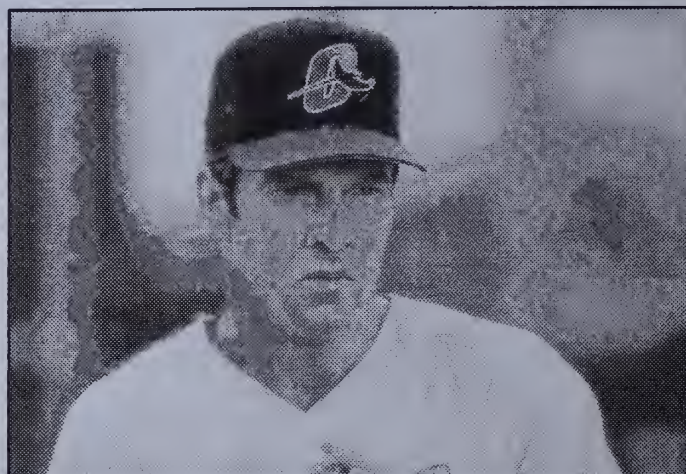
The Rookie is a feel-good film that will appeal to baseball-loving adults because of its subject matter. It's also a wholesome family film you can take your kids to thanks to its clean language and inspiring themes – but it's a bit too uneven to tolerate despite its important themes, with a plot so full of holes you could drive Jim's pick-up truck through them. It's saving grace is that it's about baseball, one of North America's favorite pastimes, and stars Dennis Quaid – one of the sexiest leading men to grace a movie screen and a former coke addict.

The film opens with a bunch of nuns throwing flower petals on a field. I'm not sure how that relates to the theme of the story, about a man, who, despite all odds, can throw a 96 mph fastball, but director John Lee Hancock uses it as a



unifying device throughout *The Rookie*, and it doesn't work. *The Rookie* also tries to show the entire life of Jim and his passion for baseball from childhood up through adulthood, weaving themes about the importance of family and forgiveness throughout. For the most part, it works, as we see Jim's relationship with his military father

progress through the year – skipping, unfortunately, the incident occurring somewhere between childhood and adulthood that caused the rift between Jim and his dad (it's hinted that it might have something to do with his parents' eventual divorce or continual moving around, but the pivotal moment in their relationship is not made clear).



The little boy (left) who plays the son of Dennis Quaid (above) stole the show in the wholesome family film, *The Rookie*.

But that's just where the holes begin. As a child, Jim is shown to have a younger brother, but he isn't even mentioned when Jim is an adult (they could have at least put something about him dying or living somewhere far away or something so the audience stops wondering). Near the beginning of the film, when Jim is shown as a grown adult with his family, we see that he has a young son and a baby with his wife, who teaches at the same high school with him. But an hour into the movie, the audience gets introduced to his young daughter for the first time.

And the holes don't stop there. When Jim is shown several times coaching his baseball team (played amiably by newcomers Jay Hernandez and Eddie Alvarado among others), it looks like there's only a dozen or so kids on the team. Yet when the team wins game after game, more and more team members just start showing up the locker room that you never actually see

playing out on the field. Also, even though it's made clear that Jim suffered from some sort of horrible accident that prevented him from playing baseball for over a decade, you never actually find out what happened to him. It's an obnoxious choice to make a film about a man who overcomes all odds, but it seems a bit weird not to define exactly what the odds were.

Yet, despite, all of these flaws – and the slow pacing when Jim leaves his family and his job to join the minor leagues – I enjoyed *The Rookie*. I think Dennis Quaid is deadly sexy, so all of the camera pans up and down his tight baseball uniforms were really hot.

Actually, there was something incredibly sexy about all of the camera work in the movie, as the camera soared all over the sweaty, dirt-stained bodies of the young high school baseball players and thick, well-built minor leaguers. If you like homoerotic Disney films, you'll love *The Rookie*.

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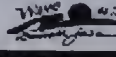
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Big Trouble doesn't dish out "big" laughs



A significant portion of the cast from the movie *Big Trouble* are tied up on that couch. I've been photographed while tied to a couch before, but only in private, and not to promote a movie.

MOVIE REVIEW

BY JENNIFER MATOTEK

There's something about Tim Allen that I find distasteful. Maybe it's the fact that he's gone the reverse direction through the Hollywood spectrum (i.e. starting off as a drug dealer before cleaning up and finding fame as an actor, writer and comedian). Or maybe Allen just needs a new agent so he can stop starring in family films that suck.

Big Trouble – directed by "big" director Barry Sonnenfeld, whose few bad films, like *Wild Wild West*, overshadow his better movies, like *Men In Black*, and *Get Shorty* – is another "big" stinkbomb to add onto Tim Allen's already putrid-smelling filmography. Set in present day Miami, *Big Trouble* tells the story of divorced advertising executive, Eliot Arnold (Tim Allen) and his teenaged son Matt (Ben Foster), who inadvertently get tangled up in the illegal arms-selling affairs of executive Arthur Herk (Stanley Tucci).

In the process, he also tangles up the rest of the Herk household, fatefully roping in two "big" hit men, two "big" police officers, two "big" Russian barkeeps/weapons smugglers, two "big" FBI agents, plus a homeless bum and a housemaid (hmm – everything seems to be in twos. And I keep using the word big in quotation marks. Do I

detect a pattern?).

Some of the plot, which I won't bore you with, involves a bomb getting smuggled onto a plane – probably a "big" part of the reason for this film's "big" delay in theatres, since it was originally set for release in the fall of 2001.

Everyone in the movie's "big" ensemble cast seems bored with *Big Trouble* in a pretty "big" way – particularly Rene Russo, as Arthur Herk's trophy wife, Anna, whose made-up, Marilyn Monroe-ish doe eyes border on the comatose. Come to think of it, just about everyone in this movie takes a bored, sleepy, or somewhat apathetic approach to their roles – from Jason Lee as the happy-go-lucky, Frito-loving bum, Puggy, to the agitated hit man, Henry (Dennis Farina), to Omar Epps' play-it-cool FBI agent Seitz.

I know in crime farces it's important to have your stars all put up a weird play-it-cool mentality – perfected in films like Soderbergh's *Ocean's Eleven* – but *Big Trouble* just isn't dark enough to pull off such a facade.

I think the main reason *Big Trouble* has such a stellar cast (Rene Russo, Tom Sizemore, Dennis Farina, Janeane Garofalo, Omar Epps, and Jason Lee) in spite of its poor screenplay has to do with the fact that it's based on a "big" novel by Dave Barry, America's favorite syndicated humour columnist (although it's also possible that they all agreed to

sign on to do the film because they saw *Get Shorty* and decided that Barry Sonnenfeld really needed to make another crime comedy set in Miami).

Big Trouble may have a "big" cast, but it doesn't have any "big" laughs, so I wouldn't go spending a "big" wad of cash to go see it in theatres – or on video. Divert any "big" Tim Allen cravings by watching reruns of *Home Improvement*, or *Galaxy Quest* – the only decent film that Tim Allen has ever starred in.

Milkrun satisfying chicklit for the romantically impaired

BOOK REVIEW

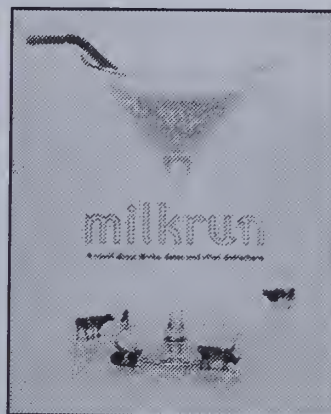
BY ANDREA CIVICHINO

Are 24-year-old single females as self-absorbed and rambunctious as Jackie Norris, the main protagonist in Sarah Mlynowski's first novel, *Milkrun*?

The novel is staged in downtown Boston – 24-year-old Jackie Norris is at the peak of her life and everything seems to be working in her favour. Although she's bogged down with an editorial position at Cupid she has it all – or least until she receives a break-up e-mail from her 'boyfriend' Jeremy. After receiving his questionable e-mail, she runs out and purchases a pair of black knee-high leather boots and seamlessly zaps back into the much-dreaded dating scene. The men she encounters are not boyfriend material in her standards – they wouldn't meet any woman's expectations, to be quite honest.

There's the guy with the octopus hands, and the goody-goody who manages to keep Jackie in the sack for an entire four minutes. Even animals mate longer than that. That's not sex – that's waiting in the McDonald's drive-thru.

Mlynowski does a great job catering to the Bridget Jones, *Sex In The City*-type genre of fiction otherwise known as chicklit. If I wasn't health conscious, this would be a great novel to curl with up, accompanied by a tub of Ben and Jerry's, but after finishing both I'd probably ask myself why. Mlynowski temporarily filled the



lack of romance in my own life and by the end of the book I was thankful for my loveless life. The book reinforces the complexities of relationships and the importance of trust. I laughed at her drunken state on New Year's Eve and understood why she envied her friends who appeared to 'have it all,' however, she doesn't let us forget that the grass always looks greener on the other side.

Eventually, Jackie did begin to annoy me. Could all 24 year-olds be a superficial as Jackie? I'm 24 and I began to lose connection with her character as she became tiresome and predictable and her mischief, nagging and helplessness no longer amused me.

With all things considered, all you women out there in need of a temporary fix of love in the 21st century, you may find *Milkrun* the beverage of your choice. Mlynowski doesn't provide solutions – but makes problems fun.

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CD reviews: The leftovers we haven't printed all year

ALBUM PICK OF THE WEEK

Gomez
In Our Gun
(Virgin)

This being their third release, and first since 1999, Gomez returns with what might be the next big thing. The album, recently described by some members of the British media as "album of the fortnight," contains such a masterful mixture of electronic and alternative music, you really get into it after just the first song. It kind of helps that the first song is their first sin-

gle "Shot Shot." The single heightens the pace of the record, mixing guitars, electronica and brass into an eclectic yet listenable mess. From that point on the songs seem to bleed into one another, getting slower and more relaxing, until reaching "Sounds of sounds," which is so mellow it puts you to sleep. It rebounds from this with "Ballad of Nice and Easy," which ends the album in much the same way it began. It's a strange mix, but the songs just lead into one another so perfectly, that I can't help liking it.

-John McGlashan

CD REVIEW

BY NATHASHA SWAMINATHAN

Jennifer Lopez
J to tha L o - The Remix Album
(Sony)

What's up with J. Lo these days? On *Lodown*, J Lo's remix tracks are mostly either hip hop wannabe or sped up dance beats. Make up your mind, J. Lo. Don't get me wrong, there are some wicked songs on this album

but we've pretty much heard before.

There's "I'm Real" and "Ain't it Funny" featuring Ja Rule. Loved it on the radio and loved it on the album. Her smooth voice compared with his raspy "I just chain-smoked the whole morning before recording" voice oddly seem to go well together. "I'm gonna be Alright" is not bad except for the oh-so familiar tune of Jessica Simpson's "Irresistible" in the background.

Overall, the album is alright. It's a good CD to chill to or even spin at a party. If you are into J. Lo, this CD's for you.

CD REVIEWS

BY JOHN MCGLASHAN

Various Artists
Blade 2 Soundtrack
(Immortal records)

It seems like originality has gone out of style. With *Blade 2*'s theatrical release, Happy Walters and Jeff Farley brought together some of the industry's top rap and dance musicians and created a decent, though somewhat uncreative, soundtrack. What I mean is that you have probably heard of most of these songs before, but under a different name, and without Eve or Cypress Hill rapping over them.

The Crystal Method contribute "PHD" from their *Tweekend* release, but ruin it by having Bubba Sparxxx mumble over it. It's more a "nightmare" track than a "PHDreem." The inclusion of the Gorillaz's collaboration with Redman on "Gorillaz on my mind" was also weird and confusing. The concept behind the song seems to be in no way related to the movie, and sticks out like a sore thumb on the album given it's the only Rap/Pop music act on this dance heavy disk.

If you were a fan of the *Spawn* soundtrack, you'll love this. Otherwise, you'll just be wishing you had lived without hearing Eve ruin a good Fatboy Slim tune by cursing all the way through it.

Jordy Birch
Funmachine
(Virgin)

At first glance, this album has really tired pop anthems. From songs about drugs and how to better your life with them, to non-sensical songs about waiting in the dessert for UFO's while on the path of the devil, this album is not intended to be taken seriously. He may look like the Jarvis Cocker from Pulp, and sound a bit like him, but after just one song you'll realize that this CD is pretty light fare, and this is not hardcore.

The songs basically recycle all the themes that were once hip or risqué in the early 1990's, but when done now they seem so out of place. There's no shock value in saying you're going to "Hustling," and can be reached at 669-6969. This is just as cheesy as a Robin Black or a Marilyn Manson song. This isn't something that will disgust your parents or make you seem rebellious by listening to it. It's just recycled clichés.

The lyrics aren't well-written, and the music is somewhat hokey, but after a while, it will grow on you. The first single is proof of that. "Moola Moola" just describes how money can take away all your problems, and reinforces Mark

Twain's comment that "money is not the root of all evil, the lack of money is." This CD doesn't have much lasting power, but if you are tired of "deep" songs trade in your Radiohead for this *Funmachine*.

My House In Montmartre
Various Artists
(Astralwerks)

For lovers of House music, Rob Da Bank put out a CD that has something for everyone. From Daft Punk to Alex Gopher, House music is well represented in this CD. Though you won't find anything new that hasn't appeared in one form or another on the artists' original releases, this CD brings them all together and shows their best works in the last couple of years. From Stardust's "Music Sounds Better With You," which was actually sampled from a Daft Punk song on *Homework*, to the extremely long Cassius track "La Mouche," this CD covers all the best of the French House Music scene.

So check out Air's *Modular Mix*, Dimitri from Paris' remix of Alex Gopher's "Party People" and live Daft Punk's "High Life." You can also see in the booklet how these bands all connect to each other, and how their influence on one another has created a great "House in Montmartre."

Trust me, this is one piece of French architecture you should definitely check out.

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- Agenda:**
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 2. Summary of Reports
 3. Questions
 4. Other Business

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SPORTS

Enthusiastic group of UTM students participate in cricket

BY SHAHERYAR MIAN

Team C took the lead from Team A on April 2 when a nail biting semi-final match against the two ended in Team C's favor. Team C batted first and scored 41 runs of thirty balls. Team A scored 34 of 30, losing the game. Team A's Captain, Shaheryar Mian, jumped around the gym cheering for his team to win the crucial game. But Team C's bowling kept the run rate down and aggressive fielding pressured the batsmen. Team C went ahead to play a best of three final with Team B.

In the seven over game, Team B batted first, scoring 46 runs. Emad Butt contributed greatly to his team, scoring 21 runs of 12 balls. Inconsistent bowling by Team C cost 13 extras of wide and no balls. Everyone expected Team C to win the first game and break Team B's flawless performance. But bowlers Rege Swapnil and Ozair Shafiq put a lot of pressure on Team C's batters. Tight fielding on the off and leg side got Team C's batters nervous.

Vice Captain Adrian D'Souza sat tight on the bleachers hoping for a comeback for his team. Team C could only score 16 runs with all out. In the second final, Team B batted first again and scored 56 runs – a record number of runs in the season. Team C started off slow

in their innings and lost three wickets in less than three overs. Team C's Captain Sami Garib, popular for his defensive batting, went to bat on the crease in the fifth over. His team had lost hope. Team C only had 22 runs with 2 overs (12 balls) left. Garib stepped up wanting to smash the ball on the off side. Bowler Collin aimed for the leg stump. The crowd roared. Garib smashed an exquisite shot for six. Garib hit three more consecutive sixes in the same over. He boosted the runs to 46, bringing much excitement to the spectators in the UTM gym.

"You cost so many bloody runs Collin," yelled Swapnil as he handed the ball to Shafiq. At 46, Team C only needed 11 runs to win in the last over when Ozair came to bowl. Players from both teams had their fingers crossed. Sami missed the first two. On the third, he hit a six, but the umpire disqualified the shot for being too high. Team C needed 10 of three. Rege set a defensive field at the boundaries. He didn't care about singles. Sami hit a couple of shots towards the boundary but all were well fielded. Sami used all his force but could only get a single of the last over. Ozair bowled him out on the last ball. Team B took the medal.

Students at UTM showed great enthusiasm and potential in Cricket this year.

The short Cricket season lasted for a month. Four teams were formed. Captains Rege Swapnil (Team B), Sami Garib (Team C), Shaheryar Mian (Team A), and Nikhil Mehra (Team D) led their teams in the tournament. Each team played six matches in the tournament. Team D scored 1 point, Team A 4 points, Team C 6 points and Team B was flawless with 11 points. While Team A and D did not make it to the finals, the teams



Not many people know that much about the sport, but last week, a small but dedicated group of UTM students gathered in the gym for a game of Cricket. (Left) A player concentrates on the bowl. (Above) Joe Carter wins the World Series for the Blue Jays.

some had never even heard of cricket before.

Most people found the game quite interesting and similar to baseball. Thanks to Shaheryar Mian (tournament organizer), Jack Krist (program coordinator) and Judy Chin (athletics department) for helping to initiate the Cricket season at UTM. Next fall, prospects for an official UTM Cricket team seem encouraging and most players look forward to it.

Garib with 8 wickets. The best fielders: Ahsan Rabhani and Adrian D'Souza helped save a number of boundaries and singles for their teams. Mohammad Abid presented the most consistent and well rounded performance through the season along with Swapnil. The teams played every Monday and Tuesday mornings. A number of spectators came by every week and

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The meaning of sports is lost

SPORTS EDITORIAL

BY ASTRID POEI

There are no words to describe sports at UTM, but 'lame' sounds damn near accurate.

In my two-year stint as sports editor, I've seen and heard it all. Fights, racial incidents, death threats, hikes in incidental fees and defaults. But there is one thing that I haven't seen a whole lot of. Sports. It's sad that some sports at UTM can't even reach the level of elementary school gym class.

Last Friday, I attended the UTM Athletic Banquet. While the event was well run, there's something strange going on when a player/coach wins an MVP award. There needs to be more sound criteria in choosing award winners rather than just your friends voting you in.

While I think that UTM sports has been ailing for quite some time, it's not totally unsalvageable.

In the fall of 2001, I attended the women's interfaculty touch football team practice. There were five girls in attendance – hardly enough for a team. The team, who won the championship the previous year, defaulted out of the league but were later reinstated. I interviewed Coach Adaora Ogbue. Our talk about the possibility of the team defaulting out of the league again was interrupted when Ogbue called out to two young boys riding their bikes along the outer circle.

The little boys eagerly rode their bikes down the grass hill and dumped them on the side of the football field.

"Can we play?" One of the boys asked.

"But I can't go home too late," the other boy said. "My mom wants me home."

Ogbue assured them that it wouldn't take long and handed the ball to one of the boys. The boys played catch with each other, while Ogbue finished the interview.

"Why do you think there's a lack of participation?" I asked. "Is it because people are apathetic?"

Ogbue said that it isn't apathy. The football spun wildly as it hit the ground. The little boy scrambled to retrieve it. He finally managed to clasp the ball by the cuffs of the sweater covering his hands, and he ran to the endzone for a touch down.

"Dance! Dance!" The girls shouted.

The little boy looked at us and spiked the ball. He threw his hands up and shook his legs. His friend screamed and cheered and ran to meet him in the end zone.

"We should do that when we score," one girl said to me.

I laughed. The boys brought the football back and handed it to Ogbue.

"Are you going to be here tomorrow?" The little boy asked.

Ogbue said that they would be there, at the same time and the same place.

"Alright, see you tomorrow," the little boy said.

The little boy hopped onto his bike and rode off with his friend.

No increase in incidental fees. No fights. No death threats. No ambiguous awards. No defaults. Just one moment of pure unadulterated sport. Even with your fancy education, you could still stand to learn something from these boys UTM.

UTMAC Athletic Banquet athletic award winners

Alice H. Pearson Intramural Athlete of the Year
Male – Steve Ghose
Female – Stephanie Delorenzo

Coaches of the Year
Emily Holland, Carolyn Noakes, Chandra Gilbert, Steve Manchur

Cynthia E. Haddow Memorial Award
Carrie Rai

Gold Award of Excellence – 200 Point Award
Stephanie Kishimoto, Steve Ghose, Gina Rajack

Jame J. Rae – Female Athlete of the Year
Carolyn Noakes

J. Tuzo Wilson – Male Athlete of the Year
Ian Hazlewood

Fair Play Award
Steve Freitas, Gina Rajack

Referees of the Year
Jon Brown, Rob Eidukatis, Marija Kosovski, Rohit Sethi, Bruce Worthington

UTM Student Leadership Award
Judy Chin, Ian Hazlewood, Jon Lee, Bruce Worthington

UTM Staff Leadership Award
Ahmed Dalal, Michele Christianson

Thank you to all those who
contributed to the Medium sports
section.

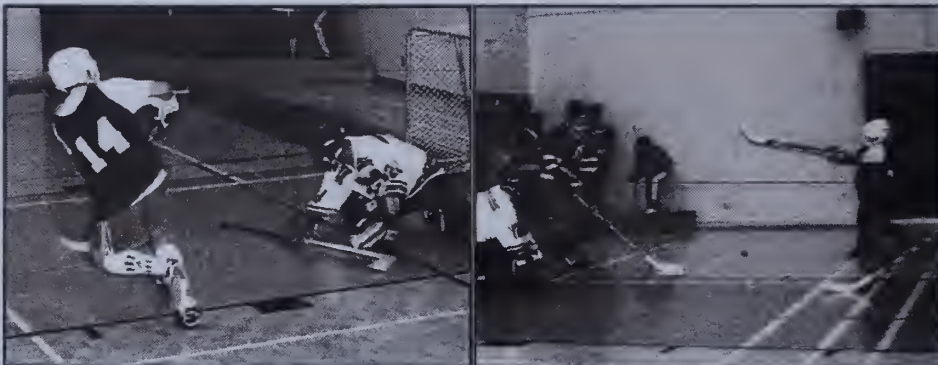
Good luck on your exams and have a
safe and happy summer break.

Star studded nights...



Last Friday, UTM athletes threw in their cleats and sweats for suits and dresses in UTMAC's annual athletic banquet. (Left) Fair Play Award winners Gina Rajack and Steve Ghose smile for the camera. (Right) Principal McNutt is blinded by the radiance of the trophy as he poses with 2001-02 UTMAC President Ian Hazlewood. *photos/courtesy CPE*

He shoots! *She* scores?



Last week, UTM held a co-ed ball hockey tournament. The tournament, which was supposed to last from 5 - 11 p.m. only lasted to about 7:30 p.m., when only two teams showed up. Jon Lee's team lost a hard fought battle to Jack Krist's squad, 11-7. *photos/Melissa Verge*



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Chandra Gilbert Coed Softball
Jon Lee Men's Ball Hockey
Gina Rajack Women's Ball Hockey
Shane Hernandez Men's Soccer
Massimo Giannoble Ball Hockey, head official
Rob Liu Coed Basketball

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